



## UN agency declares global emergency over virus from China

By M. CHENG/J. KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization declared the outbreak sparked by a new virus in China that has been exported to more than a dozen countries as a global emergency Thursday after the number of cases spiked more than tenfold in a week.

The U.N. health agency defines an international emergency as an "extraordinary event" that constitutes a risk to other countries and requires a coordinated international response.

China first informed WHO about

cases of the new virus in late December.

To date, China has reported more than 7,800 cases including 170 deaths.

Experts say there is significant evidence the virus is spreading among people in China and have noted with concern instances in other countries — including the United States, France, Japan, Germany, Canada and Vietnam — where there have also been isolated cases of human-to-human transmission.

Continued on Page 6



Funeral workers disinfect themselves after handling a virus victim in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

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## U.S. hits Iran with new sanctions, keeps some waivers in place

By DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Trump administration said Thursday that it will continue — at least for now — its policy of not sanctioning foreign companies that work with Iran's civilian nuclear program. But to signal that its pressure campaign against Tehran continues, Treasury announced new sanctions targeting the head of Iran's nuclear program and the agency he directs.

Brian Hook, U.S. envoy to Iran, said the U.S. would renew for 60 days sanctions waivers that permit Russian, European and Chinese companies to continue to work on Iran's civilian nu-

clear facilities without running afoul of U.S. sanctions. The waivers are among the last remaining components of the 2015 nuclear deal that President Donald Trump pulled out of in 2018. Hook told reporters at the State Department that although the waivers will remain in place, the U.S. would closely monitor all aspects of Iran's nuclear program and said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo can "end these projects as developments warrant."

Iran hard-liners in Congress, including Republican Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Tom Cotton of Arkansas, have argued that the waivers should be revoked because they give Iran ac-



Ivanka Trump, left, the daughter and assistant to President Donald Trump, talks with Brian Hook, U.S. special representative for Iran, talk before an event with President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020, to announce the Trump administration's much-anticipated plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Associated Press

cess to technology that could be used for weapons. Those who supported the U.S. participation in the nuclear deal say the waivers give international experts a valuable window into Iran's atomic program that might otherwise not exist. They also say some of the work, particularly on nuclear isotopes that can be used in medicine at the Tehran reactor, is humanitarian in nature.

New sanctions against Iran that the U.S. announced on Thursday target Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and its director, Ali Akbar Salehi. The sanctions freeze any assets that Salehi has within U.S. jurisdiction.

The new sanctions come amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. since Trump unilater-

ally withdrew America from Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers in May 2018. Since then, Iran has begun breaking terms of the deal, which limited its enrichment of uranium.

"The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has played a big role in Iran breaching its key nuclear commitments. It has exceeded the limits on its uranium stockpile and enrichment levels," Hook said, adding that Salehi personally inaugurated the installation of new advanced centrifuges to expand Iran's uranium enrichment capacity.

Separately, Treasury announced that a new financial channel for humanitarian goods has been created with Switzerland to benefit medical patients in Iran. Hook said four ship-

ments of cancer and transplant drugs have already been delivered to Iran.

"Iranian cancer and transplant patients are receiving treatments through this channel, which is subject to strict due diligence measures to avoid misuse by the Iranian regime," Treasury said in a statement.

Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesman for Iran's U.N. mission, said the new financial channel disputes U.S. claims that medicine is exempt from U.S. sanctions.

"If medicine and food were — as the U.S. always stated in response to Iran's complaints — 'exempt,' then why require this special channel?" he asked.

He said U.S. sanctions on Iran amount to "economic terrorism" against the Iranian people. □

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## Ethics panel warns House members not to share fake images

By DAVID KLEPPER  
Associated Press

The House Ethics Committee is warning lawmakers not to share doctored images or videos that could "erode public trust, effect public discourse, or sway an election," guidance that comes during a proliferation of online misinformation in the run-up to the 2020 elections.

In a memo sent to House members Tuesday, the committee said lawmakers or staffers could be found in violation of House ethics rules and subject to disciplinary proceedings for posting content intended to mislead the public.

"Members have a duty, and a First Amendment right, to contribute to the public discourse," the authors of the memo wrote. "However, manipulation of images and videos that are intended to mislead the public can harm that discourse and reflect discreditably on the House."

It's the first time the committee has admonished members of Congress on the use of fake images and audio on social media, though the new guidelines may be difficult to enforce because of a loophole allowing fake images when used for satire or parody. The warning comes three weeks after Rep. Paul Gosar tweeted a doctored photo of President Barack Obama shaking hands with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. In a caption, he wrote that "The world is a better place without these guys in power."

The original, unaltered photo featured Obama and now-former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2011.

In the doctored image tweeted by the Arizona Republican, Singh is replaced by Rouhani, who remains in power. Obama and Rouhani never met in person. It wasn't the first time a member of Congress had shared a misleading image, or even the first time that particular fake photo had circulated.

A political action committee used the same picture

in a 2015 television ad supporting Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

Gosar's tweet of the doctored image was retweeted more than 6,000 times and liked more than 22,000 times. Gosar later said he never intended the tweet to be taken seriously and ridiculed the journalists who wrote about it as "dim witted."

"No one said this wasn't photoshopped," he wrote in a subsequent tweet, which was retweeted far less — 420 times. "No one said the president of Iran was dead. No one said Obama met with Rouhani in person."

A spokesman for the House Ethics Committee declined to discuss the memo, or say whether it was prompted by a specific incident.

The guidelines are a good step and an indication that Congress is taking the spread of misinformation seriously, according to David Schultz, a political scientist at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. But he said lawmakers who post a fake video could always claim they didn't realize it was fake, or that they intended it as a parody. Technology and the internet have made it easier than ever to spread manipulated video, photography and audio. Disinformation experts are increasingly concerned about the emergence of "deepfakes," fake videos created using artificial intelligence and machine learning to make it appear something happened that didn't.

"Cheapfakes" like the doctored photo retweeted by Gosar are much easier to create by editing or cropping an image with readily available computer software.

"As much as we're worried about foreign governments using social media to infiltrate and influence our elections, this could be even worse," Schultz said Wednesday, predicting that Americans will only see more fake photos and videos of politicians in the months to come. "It's going to be one of the big stories



A copy of a memo dated Jan. 28, 2020 from the House Ethics Committee to House members warning lawmakers not to share doctored images or videos that could erode public trust or sway an election, is photographed Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020 in Washington.

Associated Press

from the 2020 election."

Jason Roe, a spokesman for Gosar's reelection campaign, said the congressman would abide by the new guidelines.

They are "perfectly reasonable and make good sense," he said. □



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Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., meets with reporters during the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

By MATTHEW DALY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Re-focusing a debate on war

## House backs measures asserting congressional war powers

and peace in the midst of the Senate impeachment trial, the Democratic-controlled House on Thursday approved measures reasserting congressional authority over war powers. In separate votes, the House passed a proposal to repeal the 2002 congressional authorization for the war in Iraq as well as a plan to prevent tax dollars from being used to take military action against Iran without congressional approval. Repeal of the 2002 autho-

riization was approved by a 236-166 vote, while the funding measure on Iran passed 228-175.

The actions follow a Jan. 9 vote by the House asserting that President Donald Trump must seek approval from Congress before engaging in further military action against Iran.

Democrats said the three measures, taken together, would reassert Congress's constitutional authority in questions of war and peace and sending American forces into harm's way. "For far too long, Congress has been missing in action on matters of war and peace," said Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., who sponsored the measure repealing 2002 war authorization. She called the repeal vote long overdue. "It is time to end giving blank checks to any president to wage endless wars," she said.

Noting that presidents from both parties have used the "outdated" 2002 resolution to justify military action in the Middle East, Lee said leaving the resolution in place "is not only dangerous but irresponsible."

Republicans said Lee and fellow Democrats were the ones acting irresponsibly. "After President Trump took decisive action to take out a brutal Iranian terrorist responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Americans, Democrats now seek to restrain our president and restrict his ability to protect our nation," said Louisiana Rep. Steve Scalise, the No. 2 House Republican.

The bills sponsored by Lee and Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., "severely restrict the president's authority to protect Americans from terrorist threats and fight ISIS," Scalise said, referring to the Islamic State terrorist group. The House bills are unlikely to move forward in the Republican-controlled Senate, and they face veto threats from the White House.

The White House said repeal of the 2002 war authorization would undermine the president's ability to defend U.S. forces and interests in the region against threats from Iran and Iranian-sponsored proxies. The White House also said it would "embolden our enemies with the recognizable goal of outlasting us."

Khanna said his measure would not prevent the president from acting to defend U.S. interests, but says Congress must authorize spending U.S. resources on any military action.

"It's high time Congress reasserted our power of the purse and made clear to any president that they must come to us first before taking any offensive military action. War should always be a last resort," he said.

The House approved a nonbinding resolution Jan. 9 asserting that Trump must seek approval from Congress before engaging in further military action against Iran. The vote followed a Jan. 3 U.S. drone strike that killed a top Iranian general in Iraq. □



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## AP-NORC poll: GOP more fired up for 2020, Democrats anxious

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and EMILY SWANSON

Associated Press

When it comes to the 2020 presidential election, Democrats are nervous wrecks and Republican excitement has grown.

That's according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research as Americans look ahead to a high-stakes election that is 10 months away but still very much top of mind. While emotions could change in the coming months, the findings give Democrats one more worry to add to the list: Will anxiety or enthusiasm be a bigger motivator come November?

On the verge of the first votes being cast in a primary contest with no clear leader, 66% of Democrats report anxiety about the election, compared with 46% of Republicans. Democrats are also more likely to feel frustration. Republicans, meanwhile, are more likely than Democrats to declare excitement about the race, and the share of enthusiastic Republicans appears to be rising.

The findings aren't surprising to anyone who's talked to an undecided Democrat about the crowded primary field. Behind an intense desire to oust President Donald Trump, Democrats often describe deep uncertainty about what sort of candidate has the best chance and whether the party will be able to win the votes. There's also hard division over policy and whispers about a contested convention. It can all feel a bit too much for some.

"I'm anxious and not really in a good way," said James Horinek, 32, a Democrat in Lawton, Oklahoma, who works in marketing. "There's

division across the board — there's too much on the Democratic side and too little on the Republican one." Republicans, meanwhile, appear to share less of that angst, while their party hangs together on impeachment, the economy and other major issues on Trump's agenda.

"I am not nervous at all. I think Donald Trump will win it in a landslide," said Clinton Adams, a 39-year-old custodian in the Florida Panhandle.

The poll found that 43% of Republicans say they're excited about the election, up 10 percentage points from October. Meanwhile, 33% of Democrats reported excitement.

About three-quarters of both Democrats and Republicans say they are highly motivated to cast ballots this year. But that only raises the question of which emotion will be stronger in turning out the vote around the margins. A party usually wants its voters excited rather than anxious, said George Marcus, a political scientist at Williams College who has studied the role of emotion in politics and polling. Marcus found that voters who report fear and anxiety are more likely to be confused and split their vote.

"It creates the possibility for persuasion," Marcus said of voter worry. "If I'm an anxious Democrat, I may stay home, I may vote Republican. ... You want your base to be either really angry at the other side or really enthusiastic."

Still, Marcus noted Democrats have a long way to go before Election Day. The selection of a nominee could calm jitters and stir up excitement for a candidate. Events could also shift GOP voters' confidence.

Anna Greenberg, a Democratic pollster, said the contrast between GOP excitement and Democratic anxiety and frustration is not a surprise.

"In general, supporters of the party in power are going to be more optimistic and hopeful, while supporters of the party out of power are going to be frustrated and angry," Greenberg said.

She also noted that Democrats have been stressed since Trump won the White House.

"Since Trump was elected, Democrats have been particularly anxious about both the idea of disinformation and election interference in 2020 and what could happen in a second Trump term," Greenberg said. However, she added, "there is no evidence that Democrats are any less enthusiastic about voting in 2020, and the results of the 2018 election would suggest that they are highly motivated to vote."

Indeed, the poll suggests that the feeling among Democrats might be a driver: About 9 in 10 anxious Democrats say they feel very motivated to vote this November, compared with about half of those who are not anxious.

Tim Farrell is one of those stressed-out Democrats who have been worried since Trump won in 2016. The 58-year-old social worker in Watertown, New York, says he's been "ill for the last three years."

He has little faith that voters will turn on Trump, but it's the ongoing impeachment trial in the Republican-controlled Senate that's raised his anxiety about November. "I'm dreading the expected outcome. He won't be convicted. He'll feel he's invulnerable, and he's an



In this Jan. 18, 2020 file photo, a voting drive volunteer sets up a table in Richardson, Texas.

Associated Press

and worries about relaxed standards for truth in political ads on Facebook.

"I'm just not sure we can have a fair election right now," the 65-year-old Democrat said. "That's probably my biggest anxiety right now."

Domingo Rodriguez thinks these worries are ridiculous. The 75-year-old retired translator lives in Fort Myers Beach, Florida, and, though he's not affiliated with either party, supports Trump. "I think Trump will win again. I'm not nervous," Rodriguez said, chuckling as he thought about Democrats' view of the election. □



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# UN agency declares global emergency over virus from China

Continued from Front

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted the worrisome spread of the virus between people outside China.

The main reason for this declaration is not because of what is happening in China but because of what is happening in other countries, he said.

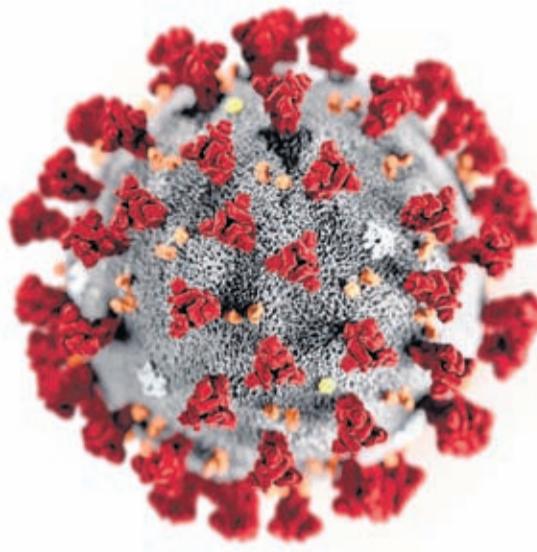
"Our greatest concern is the potential for this virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems which are ill-prepared to deal with it."

"This declaration is not a vote of non-confidence in China...on the contrary, WHO continues to have the confidence in China's capacity to control the outbreak," he said.

On Thursday, France confirmed that a doctor who was in contact with a patient with the new virus later became infected himself. The doctor is now being treated in an isolated room at a Paris hospital.

Outbreak specialists worry that the spread of new viruses from patients to health workers can signal the virus is becoming adapted to human transmission.

A declaration of a global emergency typically



This illustration provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in January 2020 shows the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). This virus was identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China.

Associated Press

brings greater money and resources, but may also prompt nervous governments to restrict travel and trade to affected countries. The announcement also imposes more disease reporting requirements on countries.

China raised the death toll to 170 on Thursday and more countries reported infections, including some spread locally, as foreign evacuees from China's worst-hit region returned home to medical tests and even isolation.

Russia announced it was closing its 2,600-mile border

with China, joining Mongolia and North Korea in barring crossings to guard against a new viral outbreak. It had been de facto closed because of the Lunar New Year holiday, but Russian authorities said the closure would be extended until March 1. Train traffic between the countries was halted except for one train connecting Moscow and Beijing, but air traffic between the two countries continued, at least for now. Russia has not confirmed any cases of the virus.

Meanwhile, the United

States and South Korea confirmed their first cases of person-to-person spread of the virus. The man in the U.S. is married to a 60-year-old Chicago woman who got sick from the virus after she returned from a trip to Wuhan, the Chinese city that is the epicenter of the outbreak. There have been cases reported of the infectious virus spreading to others in a household or workplace in China and elsewhere. The case in South Korea was a 56-year-old man who had contact with a patient who was diagnosed with the new virus earlier.

The new virus has now infected more people in China than were sickened there during the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, a cousin of the new virus.

The latest figures for mainland China show an increase of 38 deaths and 1,737 cases for a total of 7,736 confirmed cases. Of the new deaths, 37 were in Hubei province, of which Wuhan is the capital, and one was in the southwestern province of Sichuan. Outside China, there are 82 infections in 18 countries, according to WHO.

China extended its Lunar New Year holiday to Sunday to try to keep people home, but the wave of returning travelers could potentially cause the virus to spread further.

Transport ministry spokes-

man Wu Chungeng outlined a series of rigorous temperature checks and other "severe measures" to detect possibly infectious passengers. Transport restrictions such as those isolating Wuhan and suspending inter-provincial bus services would remain in place, Wu said.

"It's definitely very challenging, but we're confident we can exert effective control," Wu told reporters at the briefing.

To date, about 99% of the cases are in China. Ryan estimated the death rate of the new virus at 2%, but said the figure was very preliminary. With fluctuating numbers of cases and deaths, scientists are only able to produce a rough estimate of the fatality rate and it's likely many milder cases of the virus are being missed.

In comparison, the SARS virus killed about 10% of people who caught it. The new virus is from the coronavirus family, which includes those that can cause the common cold as well as more serious illnesses such as SARS and MERS.

Chinese authorities have demanded anyone who traveled from or through Wuhan report to health authorities and self-quarantine themselves for 14 days, the maximum incubation period during which patients can be infectious even if they don't show symptoms.

China has been largely praised for a swift and effective response to the outbreak, although questions have been raised about the police suppression of what were early on considered mere rumors — a reflection of the one-party Communist state's determination to maintain a monopoly on information in spite of smart phones and social media.

That stands in stark contrast to the initial response to SARS, when medical reports were hidden as state secrets. The delayed response was blamed for allowing the disease to spread worldwide, killing around 800 people. □



## Estranged husband accused of killing Jennifer Dulos dies

By DAVE COLLINS  
Associated Press

**HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)** — A Connecticut man charged with murdering his missing wife amid a contentious divorce case died Thursday following an apparent suicide attempt, his lawyer said. Fotis Dulos, 52, had been hospitalized with carbon monoxide poisoning since Tuesday, when he was found unresponsive inside a vehicle in the garage of his house in Farmington, Connecticut. He was pronounced dead on Thursday, attorney Norm Pattis said.

"To those who contend that Mr. Dulos' death reflects a consciousness of guilt, we say no," Pattis said.

Dulos, a luxury home builder originally from Greece, was accused of killing Jennifer Dulos, who has not been seen since she dropped their five children off at school in New Canaan in May. Her body has not been found despite extensive searches. Fotis Dulos had denied any role in her disappearance. The

children, who ranged in age from 8 to 13 when their mother vanished, have been staying with their maternal grandmother in New York City.

On the day Fotis Dulos was found stricken, he had been facing an emergency bond hearing where he could have been sent back to jail. The company that originally posted the \$6 million bond had learned that two properties offered as collateral were subject to foreclosure and a third was overvalued.

Police officers who went to check on Dulos because he was late for the hearing saw through a garage window that he was in medical distress. Emergency responders forced their way into the garage and initiated CPR.

A lawyer for Dulos and others initially said he had died before saying a pulse had been found.

Dulos was taken to the hospital in critical condition and transferred to the Jacobi Medical Center in New York City for hy-

perbaric treatment. Pattis said late Wednesday that his client's condition was "dire." His family was traveling from Greece to be with him, according to his defense lawyers.

Fotis Dulos was under house arrest and alone at the house at the time of the apparent suicide attempt, Farmington police said. He had been arrested Jan. 7 on murder and kidnapping charges, capping a lengthy investigation in which he emerged early as the primary suspect.

Warrants released last summer, when Dulos was charged initially with evidence tampering and hindering prosecution, said that he and a girlfriend were seen on video surveillance driving in Hartford



In this Jan. 8, 2020 file photo, Fotis Dulos, the estranged husband of a missing mother of five, is arraigned on murder and kidnapping charges in Stamford Superior Court in Stamford, Conn.

Associated Press

around the time Jennifer Dulos was reported missing. The man was seen tossing garbage bags into more than 30 trash bins in the area that were later determined to have items with

Jennifer Dulos' blood on them. Items in the garbage bags included clothing belonging to Jennifer Dulos and plastic zip ties that later tested positive for her DNA. □

## Winds topple U.S. border wall being built; it falls in Mexico

**CALEXICO, Calif. (AP)** — A portion of border wall being built in California toppled in strong winds, falling on a busy street on the Mexican side, authorities said Thursday. No one was injured.

Concrete had not yet dried on several panels of steel poles topped with metal plates, which fell Wednesday about 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) east of a border crossing that connects the downtown areas of Calexico, California, and Mexicali, Mexico, Border Patrol spokesman Carlos Pitones said.

The 30-foot-high (9-meter-high) barriers are being installed across the border as the Trump administration speeds up construction to erect about 450 miles (2,070 kilometers) of wall by the end of next year. The border wall has been a signature priority for President Donald Trump. □

Trees prevented some panels from falling on the Mexicali street, which runs parallel to the wall. Other panels hit the road.

Mexicali journalist Heriberto Reyes said he saw six toppled panels. The Border Patrol declined to say exactly how many fell.

Reyes said vehicles may have been crushed if they were in the path at the time. "They averted a tragedy, in my opinion," he said. The Border Patrol is discussing the incident with the contractor, Pitones said.

The contractor, SLSCO Ltd., referred questions to the Border Patrol. The company, based in Galveston, Texas, was awarded the 11-mile (17.5-kilometer) project in December 2018 as part of a \$156 million contract to replace existing barriers in California, using Department of Homeland Security funds from the 2018 fiscal year. □



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## Brexit finally arrives Friday: A momentous yet quiet moment

By RAF CASERT  
and JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Friday will mark a truly historic moment, but almost nothing will happen.

A few Union Jack flags will be lowered from European Union buildings in Brussels, more will be waved in jubilation by Brexiteers in London at the moment of Britain's departure — at 11 p.m. in the U.K., midnight in much of the EU (2300 GMT). But for most of the half a billion people in Britain and the bloc, it will be a normal Friday night.

Britain and the bloc fought tooth and nail for the best part of four years — with insults flying across the English Channel — over the terms of their divorce. Now, on the eve of one of the most significant events in European Union history, the political eruptions have ceased and an uneasy quiet reigns: the calm before the next storm.

Both sides are spent and drained from the Brexit fight, and neither has much appetite for an extrav-



Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage, third right, reacts after the vote on the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the final legislative step in the Brexit proceedings, during the plenary session at the European Parliament in Brussels, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020.

Associated Press

ganza to mark the occasion.

The EU would prefer the night to pass without anyone noticing. After all, it is losing one of its biggest members, a diplomatic,

military and economic power on a par with Germany and France. The U.K. is the first nation ever to turn its back on the EU in the 62-year history of this experiment in political union.

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen spoke this week of "the agony of parting."

"We will always love you and we will never be far," she said at the last session of the European Parliament with British participation.

Arch-Brexiteer Nigel Farage and his band of devotees will gather for patriotic songs and speeches in London's Parliament Square. But Johnson is staying away from triumphalism and won't be gloating, at least in public. Union Jacks will flutter in the streets around Parliament and buildings will be lit up in red, white and blue. But there won't be fireworks.

Britain's prime minister and his Conservative Party may have won election last month on a promise to "Get Brexit Done," but he knows his country is almost as divided today as it was in June 2016, when voters decided to walk away from the bloc after more than four decades. The 52%-48% margin of victory for the "leave" side was so tight that it tore at the fabric of the nation, divided parties and families, split big cities from small towns and pitted England against Scotland.

In the years since, it has pitted a divided Britain against the EU's united 27 remaining nations.

British politicians struggled to agree on what they wanted from Brexit and what it looked like — as was made clear by Britain's previous prime minister, Theresa May, who coined and endlessly repeated the empty phrase "Brexit means Brexit."

Britain's Parliament and government were riven by deep divisions over Brexit, pitting "remainers" against "leavers," and setting those who wanted a sharp break with Europe against factions favoring a softer departure, or even no Brexit at all. The EU's 27 other nations, in contrast, knew what they wanted and stuck together, led by the formidable negotiator Michel Barnier. While Britain cycled through several Brexit ministers and negotiators, Barnier remained — and the EU is keeping the silver-haired diplomat on to lead the talks on its future trade and security deals with Britain.

Barnier's steadfastness in preserving the EU's single market and core principles meant that when the two sides finally struck a deal on Britain's departure terms in late 2018, it contained little of the cherry-picking of membership perks that Britain had sought. And it included a major concession by the U.K. to maintain an open border between the EU's Republic of Ireland and the U.K.'s Northern Ireland. Yet the EU divorce agreement agreed upon by May immediately ran into trouble in Britain's Parliament, where lawmakers rejected it three times. Pro-Brexit legislators thought the terms too cozy with the bloc; pro-EU lawmakers said they were too harsh. As Britain bickered, the actual Brexit date kept getting pushed back: March 29, 2019 became Oct. 31. May fell and was replaced by Johnson, who vowed that Britain would leave the bloc at Halloween "do or die." Again, lawmakers blocked him. □

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# Israel's path to annexation is lined with legal thorns

By JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel has vowed to quickly annex large parts of the occupied West Bank after getting a green light from President Donald Trump, whose newly unveiled Middle East initiative heavily favors Israel and has been rejected by the Palestinians.

But the move raises complex legal questions, both in terms of international law, which forbids the annexation of war-won territory, and inside Israel, which has not had a permanent government in more than a year. Those issues, and an apparent push by the Trump administration for Israel to proceed carefully, could delay any formal annexation.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 war, lands the Palestinians want for a future state. Most of the international community supports a two-state solution based on the 1967 boundaries.

The Trump plan would give the Palestinians limited self-rule in Gaza, parts of the West Bank and sparsely populated areas of Israel, with a capital on the outskirts of Jerusalem. In return, Israel would be allowed to annex all of its West Bank settlements, which much of the international community views as illegal.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had planned to bring annexation to a vote as soon as Sunday, but that was postponed, with one government minister saying the plan would first need to be submitted to the attorney general.

U.S. officials have said a joint Israeli-U.S. committee would need to be formed to implement the extension of Israeli sovereignty over parts of the West Bank. Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and the architect of the plan, told GZERO Media the administration hopes Israel waits until it has a permanent government after March 2 elections — the third in less than a year.

Here is a look at the legal



This Jan. 28, 2020 file photo shows a view of the Jewish West Bank settlement of Ari'el.

Associated Press

concerns around annexation.

#### INTERNATIONAL LAW

International law forbids the annexation of war-won territory. Israel argues that the West Bank is a special case because it was never part of a Palestinian state. Israel, the West Bank and Gaza were all part of the British-ruled Palestine Mandate, and Britain had promised a national home for the Jewish people there, without specifying its boundaries. On that basis, Israel says it has the right to extend sovereignty over the territories with a simple Cabinet vote, a position backed by the Trump administration.

Most of the international community rejects that interpretation, and views annexed east Jerusalem and the West Bank as occupied territory because they were seized in war.

Amichai Cohen, a legal expert at the Israel Democracy Institute, a non-partisan think tank, said Israel's legal claim is "simply a way to try to avoid a confrontation with the international community. Annexation has a negative aura to it because it's illegal to annex territory," he said.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

The International Criminal Court said last year it was prepared to open a probe into alleged war crimes committed in the occupied territories pending a ruling on jurisdiction. The ICC is not authorized to prosecute annexation as a

Israel has strenuously objected to any probe, saying the Palestinians do not meet the court's criteria of statehood and the dispute over the settlements must be resolved through peace negotiations. The Trump plan, by defining a future Palestinian state and siding with Israel on the settlements, could undermine that defense.

Israel is not a member of the court and does not recognize its jurisdiction, but Israeli officials could be subject to international arrest warrants if indicted.

#### ISRAEL'S POLITICAL LIMBO

Israel has had a caretaker government for more than a year after back-to-back elections left Netanyahu and his main opponent

unable to form a majority coalition. Israelis will head to the polls again in March, but even that may not break the gridlock.

A transitional government has the same formal powers as a permanent one, but the Supreme Court has long urged restraint, saying such a government should not take major decisions unless absolutely necessary. That would support the argument for delaying annexation.

But the Trump plan enjoys wide support in Israel, including among all the major parties in the Knesset. In making the case for urgency, Netanyahu says Israel has a rare opportunity from the greatest friend it has ever had in the White House.□

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## Amnesty Int'l: Asia seeing growing repression, resistance

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

Associated Press

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Authoritarian governments in Asia are undermining human rights and demonizing their critics, but they face a rising tide of protest from young people who defy grave risks to protest such repression, Amnesty International said in its annual report on the region.

The human rights group's annual survey of the Asia-Pacific region, released Wednesday, said India and China, the two most populous nations, are trying to impose their "own bleak, domineering vision on the continent, perceiving minorities as a threat to 'national security.'"

The "main takeaway" from the report is that in Asia, "we saw an escalation of the repression in many countries. But we also saw an increase in the resistance and protest, often led by young people from Hong Kong to India, from Myanmar to Thailand," Nicholas Bequelin, regional director for Amnesty International, told The Associated Press. "We saw increased mobilization by young people to defend their rights."

Demand accountability, justice, action on climate and rights for all," Bequelin said. The effort to silence criticism and prevent the public from holding public officials and corporations accountable is a worrying trend, it said. But anti-government protests in Hong Kong and elsewhere showed an abiding will to resist repression, it said. Some highlights from the report.

**RISING REPRESSION:** Chinese leader Xi Jinping's push to vanquish dissent and impose the absolute control of the ruling Communist Party has intensified persecution of human rights defenders and others, the report said. In China and across South and Southeast Asia, governments are increasingly forthright in silencing their opponents and the media, reducing the space for even peaceful pro-

tests and introducing laws that punish online dissent, it said. It noted that many such governments also attack their critics with sophisticated social media tactics, smearing them as treasonous.

Companies are shielded from accountability to the public by leaders who defend them for the sake of economic growth, it said. They also are quick to resort to using lawsuits to penalize whistleblowers and others who speak out.

### VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS GROUPS AND OTHER MINORITIES:

Chinese authorities subjected Uighurs, Kazakhs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups in the far western Xinjiang region to intense surveillance, arbitrary detentions and forced indoctrination. In Sri Lanka, anti-Muslim violence broke out after Easter Sunday bombings that killed more than 250 people, mainly Christians, in three churches and three hotels. Across the region, all governments need to make more headway in protecting and empowering indigenous populations, the report said.

**ARMED CONFLICT:** In Afghanistan, more than 2,500 people died and 5,676 people were injured from Janu-



In this Sept. 28, 2019, file photo, a pedestrian walks past posters of Chinese President Xi Jinping, part of a newly created Lennon Wall, outside the Central Government Complex in Hong Kong.

Associated Press

ary to September, mainly in attacks using homemade explosive devices that often were carried out by the Taliban against minority ethnic groups. In Myanmar, the military carried out war crimes in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, as internal strife continued, the report said.

### REFUGEES and MIGRANTS

**SPURNED:** The report also noted Australian detentions of refugees and asylum seekers and turning boats of people fleeing

their home countries back to sea. In Japan, where refugees rarely are granted asylum, the government has not yet ratified the Migrant's Convention to protect rights of a growing population of foreign workers.

### DISAPPEARANCES and EX-TRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS:

In Pakistan, journalists, human rights defenders and members of the Shi'a Muslim community were among the hundreds of people who were "disappeared"

by security forces, often detained without charges or trial, the report said. Laws against sedition and defamation were used to curtail media freedoms, while anti-blasphemy laws were used to persecute some people and justify human rights abuses. Governments in the Philippines and other countries combating drug abuse and trafficking were responsible for killings of thousands of people, usually from poor and marginalized communities, it said. □

## Argentina debates debt restructuring, reawakening old fears

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)** — The Chamber of Deputies voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to approve a bill to restructure the Argentine government's \$100 billion debt, which officials say is unpayable amid a deep recession that has reawakened old fears of financial crises.

With the support of the main opposition parties, the government of President Alberto Fernández saw the measure pass 224-2 while leftist groups opposing the legislation protested outside congress.

The bill now goes to the

Senate for debate next week.

The center-left government's handling of the bill in a special session highlighted the importance it attaches to the South American country's huge debt to the International Monetary Fund and private creditors.

Economy Minister Martín Guzmán has warned that Argentina needs "a sustainable solution" to paying its debt.

"Today the situation is critical, the debt burden cannot be sustained," he said. Argentina periodically faces financial crises and liquidity problems that



Demonstrators protest in front of Argentina's National Congress as lawmakers debate a foreign debt restructuring bill in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020.

Associated Press

have led it to refinance its debt. At the end of 2001, it declared a record default on just over \$100 billion in debt during the worst

economic crisis in its history. It is currently dealing with a contracting economy, high inflation and a weakened currency. □

## UN: Africa's locust outbreak needs \$76M 'by, actually, now'

By CARA ANNA  
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The worst locust outbreak that parts of East Africa have seen in 70 years needs some \$76 million to help control and the money is "required by, actually, now," the United Nations said Thursday.

So far just \$15 million has been mobilized to help stop the outbreak that threatens to worsen an already poor hunger situation for millions of people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and elsewhere, Dominique Bourgeon, emergencies director with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, told a briefing in Rome.

"You can imagine that a country that has not seen such a thing in 70 years is not well prepared," he said of Kenya, East Africa's economic hub.



A desert locust sits on a maize plant at a farm in Katitika village, Kitui county, Kenya Friday, Jan. 24, 2020.

The outbreak, blamed in part on a changing climate, now threatens to spread to South Sudan and Uganda and new rains in the weeks to come will fuel fresh vegetation and a new wave of breeding. The outbreak might not be un-

der control until June when drier weather arrives, authorities have said.

But by then the number of locusts, if left unchecked, could grow 500 times, experts have warned.

"If after April the money has come, it's somehow use-

the U.N. says. Authorities have said aerial pesticide spraying is the only effective control in the outbreak, but officials in Kenya and elsewhere have said more planes and more pesticide are needed.

A single swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts per square kilometer of farmland, an area the size of almost 250 football fields, regional authorities say. One especially large swarm in northeastern Kenya measured 60 kilometers long by 40 kilometers wide (37 miles long by 25 miles wide).

"We depend a lot on this season and we worry that the locusts will destroy our harvest and we end up remaining hungry through the rest of the year, waiting for October for the next cropping season," one farmer in Kenya's Kitui county, Esther Kithuka, has told the FAO.

Even before this outbreak, nearly 20 million people faced high levels of food insecurity across the East African region long challenged by periodic droughts and floods. □

## Egyptian archaeologists unveil ancient tombs, artifacts

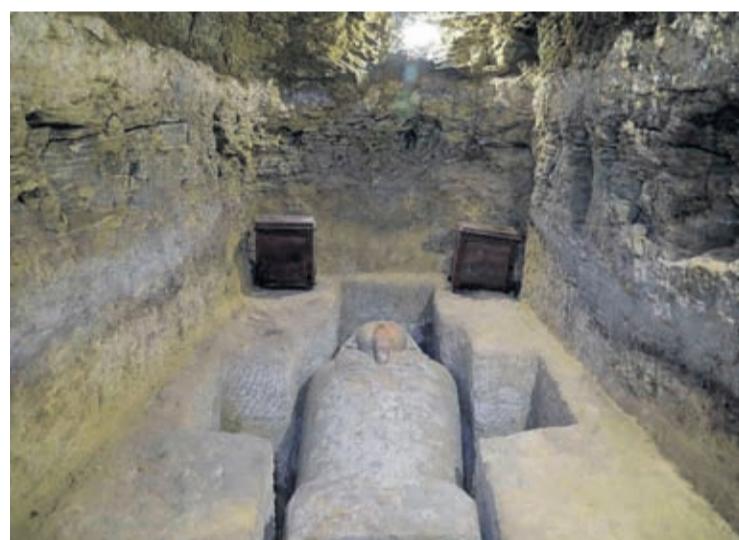
AHMED HATEM and MOHAMED SALAH  
Associated Press

TUNA AL-GABAL, Egypt (AP) — Archaeologists on Thursday unveiled 16 ancient Egyptian tombs filled with sarcophagi and other artifacts from a vast burial ground.

Egypt's Antiquities Ministry announced the discoveries in the village of Tuna al-Gabal, near the Nile Valley city of Minya in central Egypt. The site boasts an array of previously excavated finds, including funerary buildings and catacombs filled with thousands of mummified ibis and baboon birds.

The long-abandoned tombs date back to three dynasties, from 664-399 BC, in the Pharaonic Late Period.

Among the new treasures presented: 20 sarcophagi made from limestone and etched with hieroglyphic texts, five wooden coffins, hundreds of amulets and 10,000 blue funerary statues, known as ushabti figurines, which are fixtures in the ancient tombs of the area. The sarcophagus lids



This photo provided by Egypt's antiquities ministry, shows one of sarcophagi discovered in the village of Tuna al-Gabal, near the Nile Valley city of Minya.

Associated Press

are molded into mummy-like figures of men.

While such contents can be looted or decay over time, Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, described the tombs as "in good condition" and the sarcophagi stone as "well-polished."

Waziri said the tombs likely belonged to the high priests of Thoth, the ancient Egyptian god of writing and wisdom, among other

senior officials. The Ministry of Antiquities invited journalists to tour the site, shepherding film crews down ladders into dark, narrow shafts full of skeletons and sarcophagi.

The Egyptian government frequently promotes archaeological finds to boost its vital tourism sector. The industry was hard hit by political turmoil following the 2011 popular uprising that toppled longtime dictator Hosni Mubarak. □

less," FAO chief Qu Dongyu told the briefing. "So the timing, location, is crucial." Already the locusts, moving in swarms of hundreds of millions, have stripped some crops bare. An Ethiopian representative at the briefing told the FAO that some farmers in Africa's second most populous nation have lost 90% of their production.

The locusts have been moving steadily toward Ethiopia's Rift Valley, the country's breadbasket,

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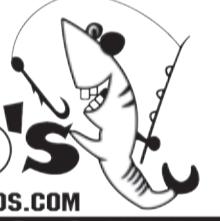
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# U.S. finds ally in Mexico as asylum policy marks first year

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

**TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) —** The Perla family of El Salvador has slipped into a daily rhythm in Mexico while they wait for the U.S. to decide whether to grant them asylum.

A modest home has replaced the tent they lived in at a migrant shelter. Their 7- and 5-year-old boys are in their second year of public school, and their third son is about to celebrate his second birthday in Tijuana.

They were among the first migrants sent back to Mexico under a Trump administration policy that dramatically reshaped the scene at the U.S.-Mexico border by returning migrants to Mexico to wait out their U.S. asylum process. The practice initially targeted Central Americans but has expanded to other nationalities, excluding Mexicans, who are exempt. The Homeland Security Department said Wednesday that it started making Brazilians wait in Mexico.

Today, a year after the policy began, many other migrants have given up



In this March 5, 2019, file photo, Ruth Aracely Monroy helps her son, Carlos, with his jacket among tents set up inside a shelter for migrants in Tijuana, Mexico.

Associated Press

and gone back to the home countries they fled. Others, like the Perlas, became entrenched in Mexican life. The system known as the Migrant Protection Protocols helped change Washington's relationship with Mexico and made the neighbor a key ally in President Donald Trump's efforts to turn away a surge of asylum seekers.

The Perlas are faring better than most of the roughly 60,000 asylum-seekers, many of whom live in fear of being robbed, assaulted, raped or killed. Human Rights First, a group critical of the policy, has documented 816 public reports of violent crimes against those who were returned to Mexico. Late last year, the body of a Salvadoran

father of two was found dismembered in Tijuana. A Salvadoran woman was kidnapped into prostitution in Ciudad Juarez. Rapid expansion of the policy was key to a June agreement between the U.S. and Mexico that led Trump to suspend his threat of tariff increases. The Republican president said at the time that Mexico was doing more than Democrats to address illegal immigration.

American officials praised President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's government last week after security forces repelled a caravan of Honduran migrants on Mexico's southern border with Guatemala.

"Mexico continues to be a true partner in addressing this regional crisis," Mark Morgan, acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said on Twitter.

U.S. border authorities say the policy has contributed to a sharp drop in illegal crossings, though legal challenges could modify or even block it. Immigration judges hear cases in San Diego and El Paso, Texas, while other asylum-seekers report to tent courts in the Texas cities of Laredo and Brownsville, where they are connected to judges by video.

This month, judges in El

Paso began hearing cases of people who were returned to Mexico through Nogales, Arizona, the last major corridor for illegal crossings where the policy hadn't been adopted. This has forced migrants to traverse dangerous sections of Mexico and travel hundreds of miles to make court appearances.

Richard Boren, a teacher, accompanied two Guatemalan women and their four children, ages 4 to 16, across an international bridge to their El Paso hearing. The Guatemalans traveled 13 hours by bus from the Arizona border.

"I was really worried about them," said Boren, 62, who met them after they were returned to Mexico through Arizona and reconnected with them for their first hearing.

Of nearly 30,000 cases decided through December, only 187, or fewer than 1%, of asylum-seekers sent back to Mexico won their cases, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. Lack of legal representation helps explain why. Fewer than 5% have lawyers.

Juan Carlos Perla, 37, said all five legal-services agencies that U.S. authorities say provide free representation in San Diego declined to represent him. Many attorneys refuse to represent clients in Mexico.

The Perlas abandoned their small bakery in El Salvador's capital for Mexico in December 2018, arriving during a small window when the Mexican government issued one-year humanitarian visas with permission to work. The family told U.S. immigration authorities that they could not pay extortion fees to gangs in San Salvador.

"We were told that if we did not pay the last two months, the next time they would come to our house not to beat us but to kill us," Ruth Aracely Monroy, 26, Perla's partner and mother to their children, told U.S. officials, according to a transcript. "We left to save our lives." □

## Venezuela's Maduro offers some diplomacy with Colombia

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) —** Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro said Wednesday he is willing to mend broken diplomatic relations with neighboring Colombia by restoring consular services amid a stand-off stemming from the capture of a fugitive lawmaker.

Police in Venezuela this week arrested Aída Merlano, a former senator in Colombia who escaped jailers to evade a 15-year prison sentence on a conviction including election fraud and weapons charges. With guards waiting outside while she underwent a dental procedure, she slipped down a rope from the third-story window and then made her way across the border into Venezuela. Learning of the arrest, Colombian President Iván

Duque asked Venezuela to return the former lawmaker. But rather than apply to Maduro's socialist administration, Duque's government asked opposition lawmaker Juan Guaidó, the congressional leader who has been campaigning to remove Maduro.

Maduro cut diplomatic ties with Colombia early last year after it threw its support to Guaidó along with the United States and nearly 60 other nations and assisted in a failed attempt to bring humanitarian aid across the border into Venezuela. While Guaidó holds broad international support and claims presidential powers as head of the National Assembly, he has no practical control over government institutions such as Venezuelan police, which remain

loyal to Maduro. "Enough of such senselessness," he said in a nationwide television broadcast. "Put your feet on the ground and let's be pragmatic. Iván Duque you are making a serious mistake."

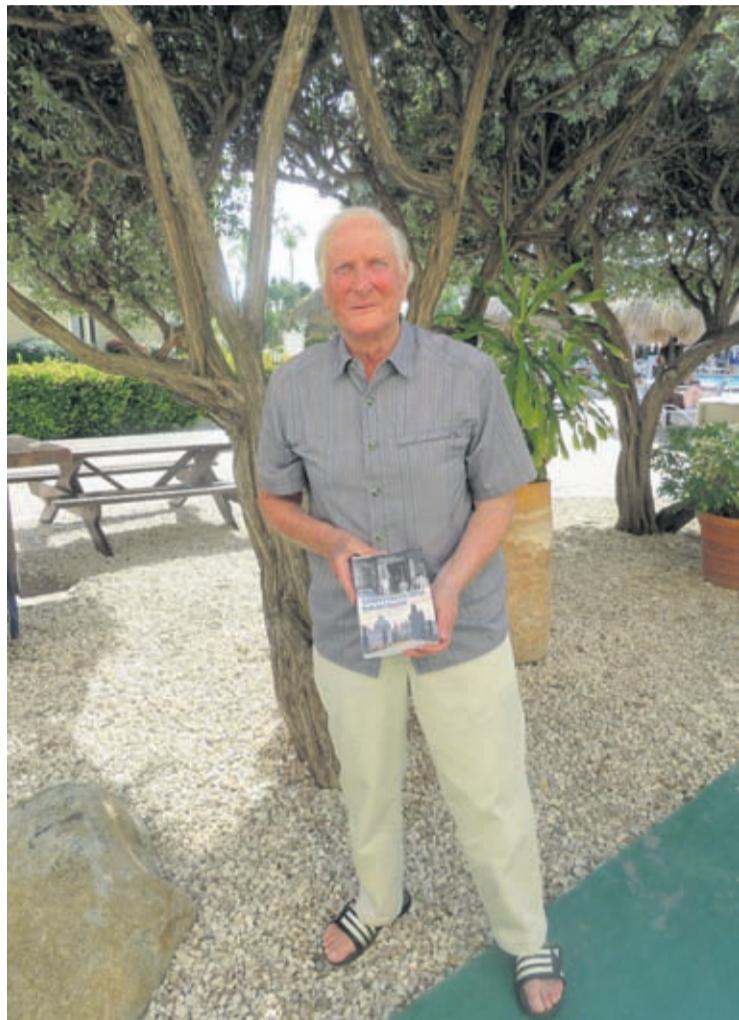
Maduro said Duque's "extremism" and "immaturity" harms the security of both Colombia and Venezuela. "This would be fixed very quickly if there was communication," Maduro said. Duque's administration, however, has accused Venezuela of giving safe haven to Colombian rebels who have been convicted of multiple crimes.

Colombian Foreign Minister Claudia Blum defended the yearlong international effort to isolate Maduro despite such practical problems. □

## LOCAL



## Loyal visitor of Aruba publishes his life story in a book: From aspiring surgeon to undercover operative



**EAGLE BEACH** — Jorge DeNapoli is the author of the book 'The unintentional immigrant' telling the story of his life. His journey is not a common one as DeNapoli used to be a US secret service servant for about 20 years. He also built an impressive career as a psychiatrist. In the year 1995 he and his beloved wife fell in love with Aruba and they have spent more than 35 years visiting the island. "This book is my legacy to my children and grandchildren that they should know who their father was and my friends from the US and Aruba."

Aruba Today meets DeNapoli for an interview during his vacation on the island and he is open to talk about his extraordinary life. "I graduated from the University of Buenos Aires medical school, I am Argentinean and after two years of practicing surgery I decided to move to the

funds to go back when a friend of his who was doing psychiatry told him that state psychiatric hospitals in Massachusetts are taking doctors and pay a good salary. "I was actually there to make money to return to Argentina. I had a student visa which I had to turn into a working permit, a green card. I worked there about two years when I met this crazy nurse," he laughs. They fell deeply in love and they decided to get married. "I made psychiatry my career and went working

at a hospital in New York State. I got my degree in psychiatry and that's why the title of the book is The Unintentional Immigrant because it was not my idea to stay."

### Undercover

Eventually the couple returned to Massachusetts where DeNapoli opened a psychiatry practice and they got four children. "A friend decided to run as US Representative and he wanted me in his campaign team because I un-

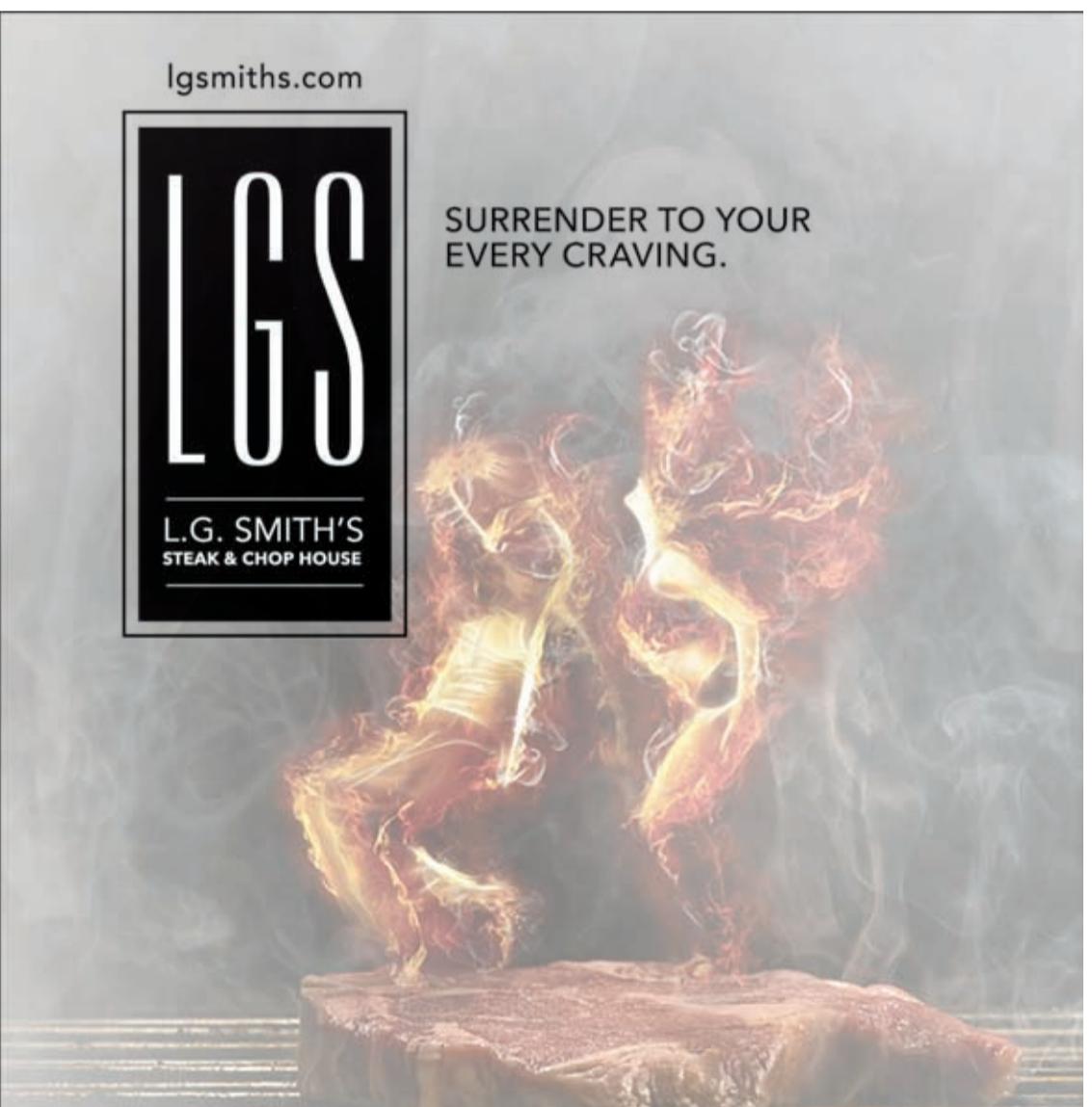
derstand human behavior and so I did. We travelled to Washington many times and I was introduced to a lot of people." He received a phone call two years later from someone in Washington from the intelligence services wanting to recruit him to be part of the office of strategic information. It sounded interesting to him but he thought: this must be a joke, my friends are setting me up.

**Continued on Page 14**

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## Loyal visitor of Aruba publishes his life story in a book: From aspiring surgeon to undercover operative

Continued from Page 13

"We had planned to meet and I expected my friends to be there laughing their hats off. But it was for real, he was from the Strategic Service Department, now called the CIA. He explained what they wanted from me." They were recruiting people who could travel throughout Europe without arising any suspicion. Business men, professionals, academia, entertainers and so DeNapoli became part of this undercover group. "I was young and I wouldn't pass a challenge. I could not even share this with my wife. She nor my children knew about this. I would always

find my way to schedule time for the secret services." He needed to attend medical congresses in Europe so it was not so difficult to disappear for some hours. His task usually was to gather information on certain persons. "I was not a James Bond doing stunts while being surrounded by beautiful women, but there were certain risks involved."

### Aruba love

DeNapoli and his wife came to Aruba for the first time in 1991. "It was still a quiet place. They purchased time share at the Casa del Mar Beach Resort & Timeshare and the Playa Linda Beach resort & Timeshare. "We fell in love

with Aruba because of the friendly people, they are very accommodating and helping you in any possible way. At that time most workers were Arubans, now we notice most are Spanish speaking. We became friends with many Arubans and we felt part of the community." This became their second home and now he comes here with his children. "My wife and I had a great relationship for almost 56 years, she passed away 5 years ago."

He states: "The book is about my life, my journey to the US as an immigrant and adapting to a new society. It is also about contributing to the country that gave me a life, a wife



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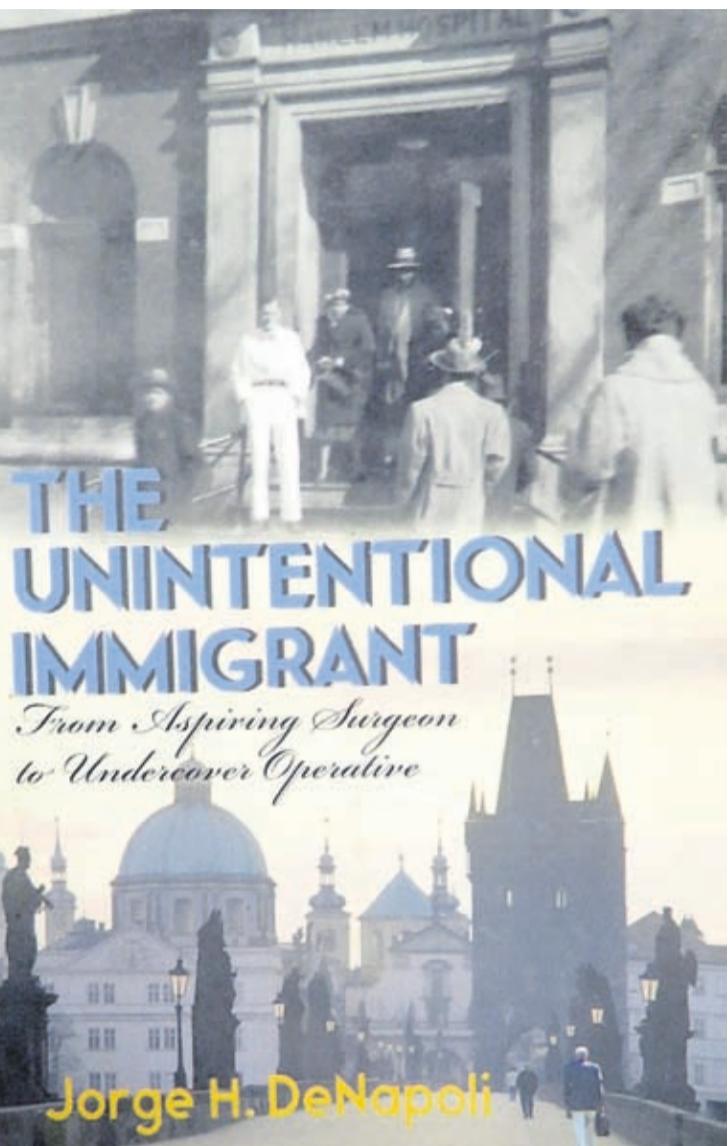
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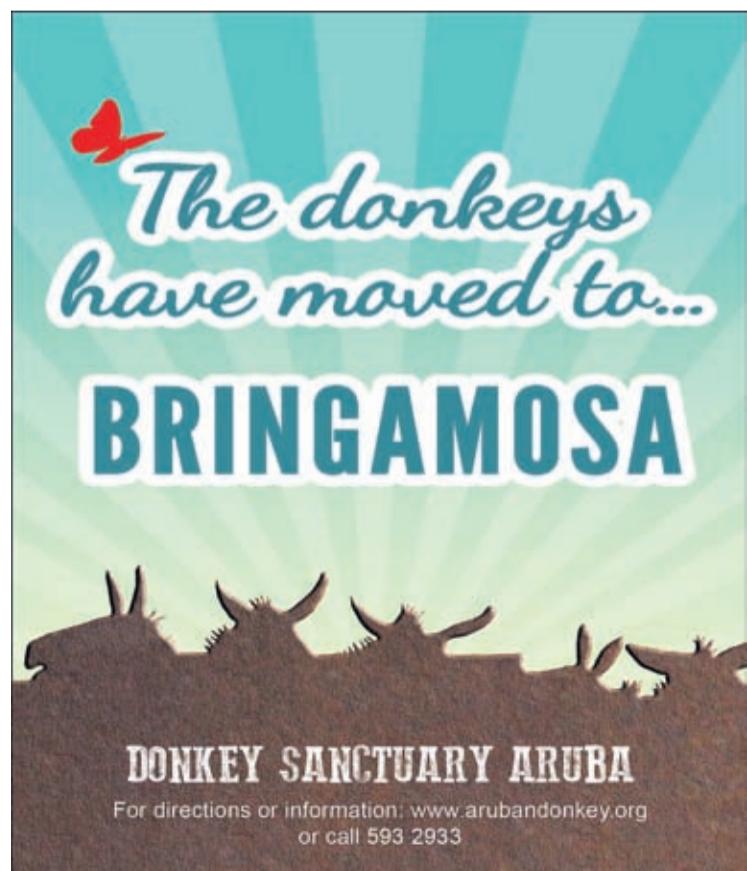
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The cover of the book shows DeNapoli at the entrance of the Harlem hospital and another picture where he is walking on the Charles Bridge in Prague.

and children. It is my way of paying back. The book is also a message to immigrants who come to the US to learn that it requires

hard work to adapt and that you have a duty to contribute to the country you have chosen to make your life." □



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The Restaurant will open on Monday, February 3rd, 2020. Their hours of operation will be from 10:00am – 4:00pm on Mondays, 10:00am – 10:00pm Tuesday thru Saturday and 11:00am – 3:00pm for their ever-popular gourmet tasting Sunday Brunch.

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The 'Shoco' was made one of Aruba's National Symbols on February 2012. It also appears on Aruba's Postal Stamps and Currency. The year 2012 was declared to be the year of the 'Shoco' and for the Aruban Burrowing Owl to be nominated as Aruba's National Bird. The island's terrestrial protected area, Parke Nacional Arikok, is also an important refuge where the population can recover and the staff is actively involved in conservation efforts.

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Aruba baby Shocos sharing a moment of affection.  
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To enjoy and adore.  
To recover and protect.  
Do it for the children. □

Source Aruba Birdlife Conservation

## MooMba Beach is the hotspot for Super Bowl 2020



PALM BEACH — Slowly but surely the Superbowl Mania is starting to get its grip on Aruba. Hearts are starting to beat just a little bit faster;

expectations are running a bit higher as the excitement keeps building. On the island there are several great locations to watch

this Game of Games, but there is one standing out: MooMba Beach, 'the Aruban home for the Superbowl'.

### Super 2020 Beach Bowl Bash at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino



Palm Beach -- The championship game between the San Francisco 49ers, and the Kansas City Chiefs will be projected on Aruba's largest screen, floating in the water, on February 2nd, on the beach at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino.

Football fans may watch the game from the comfort of their seats on the beach, with lounge chair or table seating available.

While the 49ers hope to win their sixth Lombardi Trophy, which would put them in a tie for the most Super Bowl wins in NFL history, the Kansas City Chiefs, are sure to give it their utmost, seeing that they made it to the Super

Bowl for the first time in 50 years. And this year's crop of spectacular commercials is said to command as much as \$5.6 million for a 30-second spot in the game.

Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino is offering \$22 per person event-tickets which include seating, two welcome beers, nachos with dip, specials on local beers, Bud Light, and favorite, plentiful stadium fare.

The resort is gearing up for efficient food & beverage service during the game and the Super Bowl famous Pepsi halftime show with singers Jennifer Lopez & Shakira.

Because of the high viewership, get your tickets early, they will be available from January 29th,

in the Aruba Tower lobby from 12noon to 5pm. Don't miss Super Bowl 2020, live from the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.□



With a beach stadium, giant, mega and big screens all over the place and specials on food and drinks, the 500-plus spectators at MooMba are sure to enjoy the 54th edition of this extraordinary event when the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs will battle for eternal glory in the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.

At MooMba guests can choose between make their reservations for VIP tables with a dedicated waiter and bottle service or sitting in the stadium on the

beach on Sunday February 2nd. Starting at 6:30pm the place will be filling up; inside the restaurant there will be big screens, so you can have dinner at MooMba while watching the action. The pre-entertainment will start as of 5pm with DJ Bradley Fonseca and MC David Cousins.

Make your reservations at MooMba as soon as you can (586-5365); it will soon sell out as locals and repeat visitors know that watching the Superbowl at MooMba is going to be an unforgettable experience.□

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## SPORTS



New Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker speaks during a baseball press conference at Minute Maid Park, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, in Houston.

Associated Press

## BAKER TAKES OVER SCAM-MARRED ASTROS, SET FOR 'LAST HURRAH'

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

**HOUSTON** (AP) — Before he begins his "last hurrah," Dusty Baker intends to talk to his new team. He hasn't decided exactly what he'll say to the scandal-riddled Houston Astros when spring training starts, but he's certain of the message.

"You got to go forward and make sure that it doesn't happen again," Baker said. "It certainly is not going to happen on my watch here, and I don't foresee it happening ever again because this has been an embarrassment for a lot of people."

Baker was introduced as Houston's manager on Thursday, bringing a wealth of experience to a club reeling from a sign-stealing scam that cost manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow their jobs.

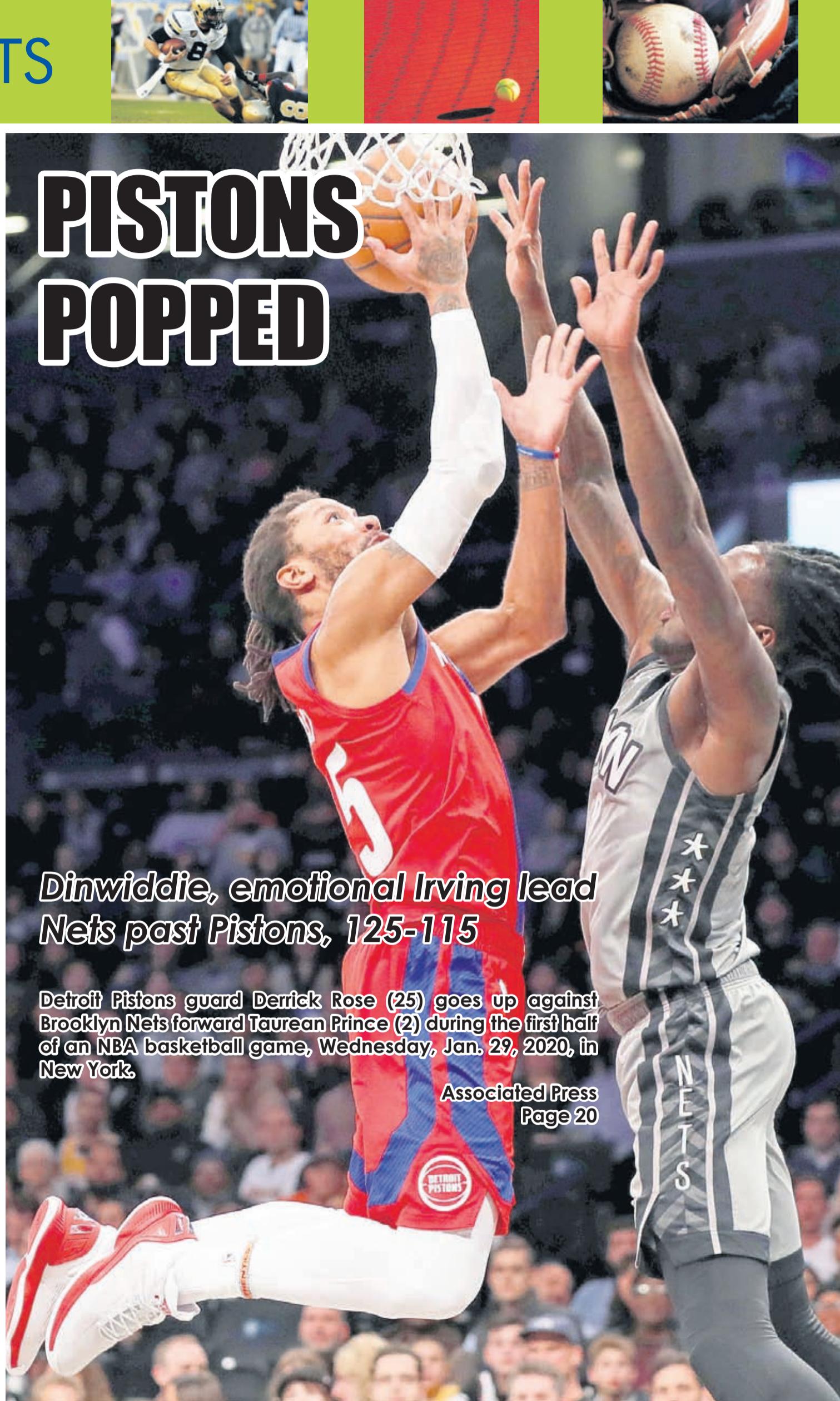
Continued on Page 22

# PISTONS POPPED

*Dinwiddie, emotional Irving lead Nets past Pistons, 125-115*

**Detroit Pistons guard Derrick Rose (25) goes up against Brooklyn Nets forward Taurean Prince (2) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020, in New York.**

Associated Press  
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# Too many players making mockery of All-Star voting

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

Once again, LeBron James and Giannis Antetokounmpo are All-Star captains.

Once again, the fans — mostly, anyway — got who they wanted as the game's starters.

And once again, too many NBA players made a mockery of their vote to decide which colleagues should start the league's showcase exhibition.

It's time for the NBA to take the vote away from the players. It's clear too many don't want the job.

While fan voting pretty much set the tone for who will start Feb. 16 in Chicago, an AP analysis of the numbers shows that 380 players took part in the voting. The players, like the media and fans, voted for three frontcourt players and two guards apiece from the Eastern and Western Conferences.

A look inside those numbers reveals a growing concern. Antetokounmpo — the league's reigning MVP — got the most player votes, with 258. That means 67.9% of players who voted thought he was worthy of an All-Star start. More importantly, that means 32.1% of players who voted thought he should either come off the bench or not be an All-Star at all.

James didn't appear on 38.2% of the player ballots. If there's one thing that can be agreed upon, it's Antetokounmpo and James have been among the three best forwards in their conferences this season.

Sounds reasonable, but apparently it's not obvious to their peers.

James and Antetokounmpo were the only two starters who got more than 50% of the vote from their player peers. Put another way: 52% of players didn't think Anthony Davis should be a starter, 56% didn't vote for Luka Doncic, 59% didn't vote for Kawhi Leonard, 62% didn't vote for James Harden, 67% didn't vote for Joel Embiid, 70% didn't vote for Kemba Walker, 72% didn't vote for Pascal

Siakam and a whopping 83% of players didn't vote for Trae Young.

If there can be two days of outrage and counting over Derek Jeter getting 99.7% of the vote from the Baseball Writers Association of America for inclusion into the Hall of Fame — missing a unanimous selection by one measly vote — then there should be some outrage for this.

The Pro Bowl is less than ideal, given that players who made the Super Bowl aren't taking part and neither are plenty of other players who could be on the field in Orlando this weekend. The NHL All-Star game this weekend is missing Alex Ovechkin. The latter innings of baseball's All-Star Game are usually featuring players who most fans didn't vote for, because the starters' evenings have long been over.

And the NBA's All-Star game gets ripped most every year for being a no-defense exhibition.

It's doubtful any of that will change. The days of Pete Rose running over Ray Fosse at home plate in an All-Star game are over.

But that doesn't mean NBA players shouldn't take the vote seriously.

The players made their voice heard in some cases. Fan-pick Kyrie Irving wasn't named a starter; Walker got that nod instead — based on player and media voting.

Irving or Walker can be a legit debate, but some player voting was comical.

— Zion Williamson got two votes, which on the surface doesn't look so bad; after all, he was the No. 1 overall pick last season. Consider, however, that the two votes were cast before he made his NBA debut on Wednesday.

— Tacko Fall — the 7-foot-5 Boston center who has spent most of his rookie season in the G League — got seven votes from players. He has appeared in four games.

— Justise Winslow, who has missed most of Miami's season, got one vote. So did Heat teammate KZ Okpa-

la, which is one more vote than he has NBA points.

— Thanasis Antetokounmpo got six player votes. Kostas Antetokounmpo got five, a big number for someone who hasn't scored yet this season. Perhaps players got confused. Perhaps those votes were supposed to go to Giannis. Who knows.

— Bol Bol got a vote. He hasn't played yet. Miye Oni got a vote. He's made three scoreless appearances. The list of 'this-guy-got-votes?' goes on and on and on and on.

In all, 292 players got at least one vote from their peers. That's a new record, three more than the ridiculous number set last year. The system changed four years ago after 768,112



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo shoots during a training session ahead of the NBA basketball game against Charlotte Hornets, in Paris, Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

people voted for Zaza Pachulia in 2016 and nearly made him a starter. Pachulia's "candidacy" was fueled by social-media influencers and many votes from the former Soviet republic of Georgia, his homeland.

The NBA was right to act then and change the rules, going to a formula where starters get picked in a system where fans make up 50% of the vote, media 25% and players the other 25%. Change the rules again. □

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## Oladipo hits key 3 in season debut, Pacers top Bulls 115-106



Indiana Pacers' Victor Oladipo (4) goes to the basket past Chicago Bulls' Cristiano Felicio (6) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Victor Oladipo's only 3-pointer tied the score with 10 seconds left in regulation, and Malcolm Brogdon scored seven of his 15 points in overtime, helping the Indiana Pacers rally for a 115-106 victory over Chicago on Wednesday night.

Oladipo had nine points in his first game back since suffering a season-ending knee injury last January. T.J. Warren had 25 points to lead the Pacers, who have won eight of their last 10. Brogdon also had eight rebounds and nine assists. Chandler Hutchinson finished with a career-high 21 points, while Zach LaVine added 20 for Chicago, which lost its eighth straight

in the series. Clearly, Oladipo was rusty. He was 2 of 8 from the field and 1 of 7 on 3s in 21 minutes. He had two rebounds, four assists and two turnovers.

### **NETS 125, PISTONS 115**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Spencer Dinwiddie scored 28 points in his first game with his new jersey number, Kyrie Irving returned to the lineup to score 20 and Brooklyn beat Detroit.

Irving didn't play Sunday at New York after learning of Kobe Bryant's death, and Dinwiddie, a Los Angeles native, was in tears after the game talking about what the Lakers star meant to him.

Dinwiddie changed his number from No. 8, one of the numbers Bryant wore,

to No. 26. Reggie Jackson scored 23 points during one of the best games of his injury-plagued season and Derrick Rose had 22 for the Pistons, who have lost four straight.

The Nets left two seats open with flowers on them at Barclays Center in honor of Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, who were among the nine people killed in a helicopter crash Sunday. The pair sat in those seats near Brooklyn's bench for a Dec. 21 game against Atlanta. Gianna was a fan of the Hawks' Trae Young.

### **GRIZZLIES 127, KNICKS 106**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Dillon Brooks scored 27 points, Ja Morant had 18 points and 10 assists, and Memphis

cruised to its fourth straight victory, beating New York. Tempers flared with 48 seconds left in regulation when Knicks guard Elfrid Payton knocked Memphis' Jae Crowder into the first row after Crowder attempted a 3-pointer following the steal of an errant inbound pass by Julius Randle. Crowder and New York's Marcus Morris Sr. were ejected for instigating the fight. Payton was assessed a flagrant 2 foul, which carried an automatic ejection. The victory put Memphis at .500 (24-24) for the first time in almost 13 months.

Jonas Valenciunas had 12 points and 13 rebounds and Crowder finished with 18 points and eight assists for the Grizzlies, who have won 11 of their last 13 games. Randle had 16 points and 15 rebounds, and Payton finished with 15 points and 11 assists for New York, which has lost seven of 10.

### **SPURS 127, JAZZ 120**

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — DeMar DeRozan scored a season-high 38 points and San Antonio snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Utah.

DeRozan was 11-for-19 shooting, surpassing 1,000 points for the 10th straight season. He had 21 points in the second half, including a pair of mid-range jumpers from the right baseline in the final 3 minutes to help seal the victory.

Patty Mills had 18 points and Dejounte Murray 16

points for the Spurs. Donovan Mitchell had 31 points in 33 minutes and San Antonio native Jordan Clarkson added 20 points for the Jazz.

### **THUNDER 120, KINGS 100**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)** — Luguentz Dort set season-highs with 23 points and five 3-pointers, Dennis Schroder delivered another big game off the bench, and Oklahoma City beat Sacramento.

Schroder had 24 points and nine assists as the Thunder led the entire way and won for the sixth time in seven games. Chris Paul added nine points, 10 assists and seven rebounds, Danilo Gallinari had 19 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 17. Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 23 points and De'Aaron Fox had 19 for Sacramento.

### **TRAIL BLAZERS 125, ROCKETS 112**

**PORTRLAND, Ore. (AP)** — Damian Lillard had 36 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his first career triple-double, and Portland beat Houston to spoil James Harden's return after a two-game absence.

CJ McCollum had 22 points and Trevor Ariza, playing in just his third game as a Blazer after a trade with Sacramento, matched his season high with 21.

Russell Westbrook led the Rockets with 39 points, extending his streak of games with 20-plus points to 21, and 10 rebounds. Harden had 18. □

# Djokovic adds to Slam streak vs. Federer at Australian Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Novak Djokovic was wondering, right along with everyone else, what sort of shape Roger Federer would be in for their Australian Open semifinal.

At age 38, despite dealing with a painful groin muscle and coming off a draining five-setter, Federer came out just fine, it seemed, and soon was up 4-1 and love-40, holding a trio of break chances as Djokovic served.

Didn't last. Federer couldn't sustain that level. Neither his body nor Djokovic would let him.

Casting aside a bit of a poor start during the rivals' 50th meeting, Djokovic stretched his Grand Slam winning streak against Federer to six in a row with a 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3 victory Thursday night that earned the defending champion a record eighth trip to the final at Melbourne Park.

"Today was horrible, to go through what I did. Nice entrance. Nice sendoff. And in between, it's one to forget, because you know you have a 3% chance to win," Federer said, adding that he discussed beforehand with his team how bad things would need to get for him to stop playing.

"Once you can see it coming, that it's not going to work anymore, it's tough."

Djokovic now leads their head-to-head series 27-23, including 11-6 at majors. Federer hasn't beaten him at one of the sport's four most important tournaments since 2012.

"I just want to say, respect to Roger for coming out tonight. He was obviously hurt," Djokovic said. "Wasn't at his best."

The No. 2-seeded Djokovic will try to collect a record-extending eighth Australian Open title on Sunday against No. 5 Dominic Thiem or No. 7 Alexander Zverev.

Djokovic also can claim a 17th major trophy overall to move closer to Federer's record of 20.

Rafael Nadal, beaten by Thiem in the quarterfinals, is



Serbia's Novak Djokovic makes a backhand return to Switzerland's Roger Federer during their semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

at 19.

In the women's final Saturday, it'll be two-time major champion Garbiñe Muguruza of Spain against 21-year-old Sofia Kenin of the United States. It's Kenin's debut in a Grand Slam title match.

Clearly, for Djokovic vs. Federer, everything hinged on the first hour or so.

They played on a muggy, sweltering evening, with the temperature in the high 90s (high 30s Celsius) and no breeze to offer respite.

Almost from the moment his wild quarterfinal ended Tuesday after he'd saved seven match points and eked past Tenny Sandgren in five sets, speculation swirled about how well Federer would recover.

Might the muscle issue force him to pull out of the tournament? Why didn't he practice Wednesday?

As it happens, Federer showed up, of course. And gave what he could until the end.

He's never handed an opponent a walkover across more than 400 Grand Slam matches, never retired from

any of his more than 1,500 career tour-level matches.

"I don't think I would have gone on court if I had no chance to win," Federer said.

"We saw I was still able to make a match out of it." Indeed, Federer appeared to be managing just fine at the outset.

And, oh, did this match set out well, in terms of the atmosphere, in terms of the tension, in terms of the tennis.

The proceedings began with a jolt of a 14-point game as a fugue of "Let's go, Roger!" and "No-le! No-le!" provided the soundtrack, prompting chair umpire Nico Helwerth to passively aggressively admonish spectators: "Please. Thank you."

There was an exchange of 17 strokes. Another of 15.

There were two break points for Djokovic, nullified with the help of formidable serves.

Federer took the game with three aces, three other clean winners and then broke to go up 2-0 on his way to 4-1.

Soon it was nearly 5-1 in Federer's favor. Close doesn't count, though.

Djokovic put up too much resistance, much like during their epic Wimbledon final last July, when he thwarted two championship points for Federer and wound up winning in a fifth-set tiebreaker.

This time, Djokovic said, "I managed to dig my way back."

After Djokovic got out of that love-40 hole to hold, he trailed 5-2 and love-30. But Djokovic picked up 10 consecutive points to not only hold there but also break at love in the following game as Federer, one of the most effective servers ever, served for the set.

At love! Imagine that.

In the eventual tiebreaker, Djokovic did what Djokovic does: No mistakes and four pure winners, including a down-the-line backhand return to end it.

At the break, Federer took a medical timeout and went off court with a trainer, like he did against Sandgren. Djokovic stayed on the sideline while he, too,

got checked out.

When play resumed, Federer did not look as spry or confident as in the first set. He tried shortcuts such as pushing forward on returns or less-than-ideal drop shots. He couldn't generate so much as one break chance.

Djokovic took the set with a final-game break and the last two points were spectacular.

First, he followed up a stinging return by heading far to his left for a sprinting, sliding, stretching cross-court backhand passing shot; he probably shouldn't even have put his racket on the ball, let alone managed to win the point.

Then he reacted to a short shot by Federer by running all-out to flip a cross-court forehand pass that made it two sets to none. Djokovic threw an uppercut and bellowed, "Come on!"

They played for another half-hour or so but all that was left to decide was the score, not who would win.

"He was better on the day today," Federer said, "no question." □

## 3B Pablo Sandoval returning to Giants on minor league deal

By JANIE McCUALEY

AP Baseball Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** —

The Kung Fu Panda is back with the San Francisco Giants.

Popular third baseman Pablo Sandoval agreed to a minor league contact with the Giants and would get a \$2 million, one-year deal if added to the 40-man roster.

The 2012 World Series MVP, who pondered the idea last summer that his time with San Francisco could be over, would have the chance to earn \$750,000 in performance bonuses.

The 33-year-old Venezuelan is working back from season-ending Tommy John reconstructive surgery on his right elbow in early September. Dr. Neal ElAttrache in Los Angeles determined Sandoval needed the procedure on his ulnar collateral ligament, and Sandoval has said he is



In this July 22, 2019, file photo, San Francisco Giants third baseman Pablo Sandoval gets set during a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs in San Francisco.

Associated Press

determined to come back even stronger in 2020.

The progress and health status of the switch-hitter will be more clear come

spring training next month. Pitchers and catchers report to Scottsdale Stadium in Arizona on Feb. 11.

New manager Gabe

Kapler is counting on Sandoval's veteran presence. "Pablo brings a wealth of experience, a lot of energy and consistent positivity,"

Kapler said. "That mentality from a veteran player really helps set the tone for a clubhouse. I'm excited for the impact he'll have. On the field, he's a dangerous bat, and he was always one we planned carefully around when I was with Philly."

Sandoval made a comeback with the Giants in 2017 after his release by the Red Sox, and he was used in various roles by now-retired manager Bruce Bochy. Sandoval batted .268 with 14 homers and 41 RBIs in 108 games.

Sandoval considers Bochy a father figure and was emotional when the two spent their final stretch together late last season.

"Great to have Pablo back on board," Bochy said in a text message.

"Know he's been working hard on his rehab and wanted to come back to the Giants." □

## Baker

Continued from Page 18

Baker longed for another shot at an elusive title after falling short in his previous stops. But at 70 years old he wasn't sure if it would come.

"I was happy but I wasn't satisfied, where I was and what I was doing because something's missing," he said. "And I think the Lord gave me the best chance to accomplish what I need as a person, as a father, and as a man."

Baker is the oldest manager in the big leagues. Hinch was fired Jan. 13 just an hour after he was suspended for the season by Major League Baseball for his role in Houston's illicit scheme.

"Dusty's a person of high integrity and he's a respected leader," team owner Jim Crane said. "He has great baseball experience and he will earn the players' trust."

An All-Star outfielder while playing 19 years in the majors, Baker has 22 years of managerial experience, starting in 1993 with the

San Francisco Giants.

A three-time NL Manager of the Year, Baker was let go by the Washington Nationals after a 97-65 season in 2017.

"Hiring Dusty Baker is one big step for us to move forward," Crane said. "And I believe Dusty is the right person at the right time."

Baker has served since 2018 as a special adviser to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

He was so excited about coming to Houston on Thursday that he woke up an hour before the alarm that was set at 2 a.m. was to go off.

"This is my last hurrah," he said. "And I thought my last hurrah was in Washington, actually, because I gave all my stuff away. I went to find my shoes, went up to the attic and I found the empty bag ... so this is a new beginning for me."

With just about two weeks

until the start of spring training, Baker said he would keep Hinch's staff intact instead of bringing in his own people.

"We're going to go with what we have because it's pretty good," he said.

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred disciplined the Astros after he found the team broke rules by using electronics to steal signs during its run to the 2017 World Series championship and again in the 2018 season.

The Astros were fined \$5 million, the maximum allowed under the Major League Constitution, and forfeited their next two first- and second-round amateur draft picks.

The investigation found that the Astros used the video feed from a center field camera to view and decode opposing catcher's signs. Players banged on a trash can to signal to batters what was coming, believing it would improve chances of getting a hit.

Former Astros star Enos Cabell, who works as a special adviser in the team's



New Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker, left, speaks alongside team owner Jim Crane, right, during a baseball press conference at Minute Maid Park, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, in Houston.

Associated Press

front office, has been friends with Baker for years and was thrilled about the hire.

"I'm thankful for Jim making the right decision because our team needs him," Cabell said. "We need somebody who is stable and who the players will play for."

Baker and Dodgers manager Dave Roberts are the only two African-American managers in the majors, a fact that disappoints Baker.

"But I'm hoping that what we do will motivate other coaches and players to try

to strive to get to where I am," Baker said. "And also hopefully this will incite other owners to say, 'Hey man, these guys are pretty good at what they do, these guys are the best.'"

Baker said he'll spend the next few days getting things in order at his home in California to prepare to be at spring training and then in Houston for the season. He mentioned spending time with his first grandchild, a boy who was born about two weeks ago, pruning his grapes and taking his dogs to the veterinarian. □

## Gibbs brings Stewart and Labonte into NASCAR Hall of Fame

By JENNA FRYER AP

Auto Racing Writer

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)** — Joe Gibbs was still reeling from the death of his oldest son when he arrived at last year's Daytona 500. Then, on a magical Sunday for his team, his drivers went 1-2-3 in the biggest race of the year to kick off a tribute season to the late J.D. Gibbs.

J.D. Gibbs died last January at age 49 from complications with a long battle with a degenerative neurological disease. Just a month later, the season began for Joe Gibbs Racing without its co-founder. But the loss was an inspiration all year for the organization, which won a modern-day record 19 of the 36 Cup Series races, a second Cup title for Kyle Busch and then saw Joe Gibbs elected to the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Gibbs, already an NFL Hall of Famer, will be inducted Friday night alongside Tony Stewart and Bobby Labonte, two drivers who helped him build one of NASCAR's top teams while combining to win three of the organization's five Cup titles.

"You couldn't write a book and have this happen," Labonte said of the Gibbs trio's induction together. "I just sit back and reflect on the times with Joe and it's awesome we're all three going in at the same time. You just couldn't ask for anything better than that." Waddell Wilson and the late Buddy Baker round out the Hall of Fame's 2020 class of five.

Gibbs was a three-time Super Bowl winning coach of the Washington Redskins when he secured an \$800,000 loan before the 1992 season to start a NASCAR team with his two sons. He landed Interstate Batteries as a sponsor — a backer that remains with JGR to this day — and hired Dale Jarrett to drive.

"He sat (us) down and said, 'Look, I've borrowed \$800,000 and that's all I'm borrowing. If we can't make this thing get up and going ... I'll shut this down and chalk it up to a bad investment. But hopefully we



In this May 22, 2019, file photo, images of NASCAR's Hall of Fame Class of 2020, from left, Tony Stewart, Joe Gibbs, Waddell Wilson, Buddy Baker and Bobby Labonte are shown on a screen after an announcement in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

make it happen,'" said Jarrett, a Hall of Famer himself. "And he has built this 500-plus employee business up from literally 18 people that first year and an \$800,000 loan. It's just incredible."

Jarrett in 1993 won the Daytona 500, the first of 176 Cup victories for the Gibbs team.

Then came Labonte in 1995. He spent 11 years driving the No. 18 for Gibbs and in 2000 gave the organization its first Cup championship. Stewart was hired for the No. 20 in 1999 and added titles for Gibbs in 2002 and 2005.

Success seemed easy on the track, but Gibbs was kept busy. Among other things, Stewart had an explosive temper that led to meltdowns after poor races. Gibbs recently joked he'd run to the team hauler in an attempt to mitigate the damage if Stewart had a bad race.

Stewart never really mellowed, but used the tools he learned from Gibbs to leave in 2008 to become part owner of Stewart-Haas Racing. Although Stewart was a driver/owner through 2016, he does not believe he could have made the transition into ownership had he not grown up in the Gibbs organization.

"I learned a lot from this guy in the years I was there," Stewart said. "I've said it a million times, if I didn't work

for him, I wouldn't be where I'm at now. I wouldn't be doing the things that I'm doing now. I wouldn't be in debt like I am now. And I blame it all on Joe."

Gibbs, who is 79, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1996 for his success with the Redskins. An ardent supporter of his former team, he recently counseled Ron Rivera to take the head coaching job in Washington after Rivera was fired

by the Carolina Panthers. Gibbs and Rivera were not particularly close, but when Rivera reached out, Gibbs cleared several hours in his schedule to sit and talk about the Redskins culture and working for owner Dan Snyder.

His drivers — he currently fields Cup entries for Busch, Martin Truex Jr., Erik Jones and Denny Hamlin, a two-time Daytona 500 winner discovered by the late J.D. Gibbs — marvel at his work

ethic and commitment to the success of his teams.

"He's one of the first guys in the shop every day, and one of the last to leave," Busch said.

"If he's not working at the shop, he's traveling or flying somewhere to do something for the race teams. My phone rings late at night when I'm trying to sleep and it's Coach just checking in. It all starts with him, he's the one who drives the entire organization." □

## MLS, Nashville at odds with new mayor over stadium project

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Major League Soccer and its new Nashville team say Mayor John Cooper refused Thursday to commit to moving ahead with a stadium plan approved under the previous mayor.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber and team officials met with Cooper at the league's office Thursday in New York City to discuss the team's stadium project. The soccer officials said they want an answer by Feb. 6.

MLS and Nashville issued a joint statement, saying the team has worked over the past four months to improve the stadium deal with new proposals to address concerns of the mayor, who took office in late Sep-

tember. The league said in the statement that Garber made clear that MLS would not have awarded Nashville an expansion team without the city's commitment to build a soccer stadium at the Nashville Fairgrounds location.

"The Mayor's continued refusal to proceed is a deep disappointment," the league and team said in the statement.

Cooper must approve demolition of some old exhibition buildings for construction to begin on the stadium.

The team will be working with Cooper's office over the next week trying to finalize a plan to start that phase.

"We hope for a mutually

agreeable solution and expect to have an update regarding the project by February 6," MLS and Nashville said in the statement.

Nashville is scheduled to begin its debut season Feb. 29, hosting Atlanta at Nissan Stadium, home to the NFL's Tennessee Titans.

Nashville chief executive officer Ian Ayre said in August the project would cost at least \$50 million more than original estimates and the team would be investing up to \$75 million in additional money. The Metro Nashville Council approved a \$275 million project in November 2017. MLS granted Nashville an expansion franchise in December 2017 after the council's vote. □

# Huawei races to replace Google apps for next smartphone

By JOE McDONALD

AP Business Writer

**BEIJING (AP)** — If you can make smartphone apps, Chinese tech giant Huawei wants you.

The No. 2 global smartphone brand is struggling to hold onto its market after Washington accused Huawei of being a security risk and blocked access to U.S. components and technology.

That includes YouTube and other popular Google "core apps" customers expect on new phones. They will be missing from the global roll-out of Huawei's next model, the P40, due out in March, replaced by its own music, payment and other apps. Huawei Technologies Ltd., along with every other smartphone brand except Apple Inc., relies on Google's Android operating system. So it's scouring the world for replacements. At events for developers from New Delhi to Warsaw to Sao Paulo, Huawei is promising cash rewards if they meet a deadline Friday to get apps onto its online store.

The company says it will invest \$1.5 billion in app development. It faces an expensive, uphill struggle to create alternatives to the Google-centered world of music, navigation and other apps, according to industry experts. Others including Nokia and Microsoft have tried and failed to create their own mobile ecosystems.

Creating "diverse apps" is a "really challenging task to Huawei," said chairman Guo Ping in videotaped comments released by the company.

Huawei, also the world's biggest maker of switching gear for phone networks, rejects U.S. accusations it might facilitate Chinese spying. Chinese officials accuse Washington of using phony security claims to hurt a commercial rival. The Trump administration also is pressing European and other allies to exclude Huawei switching gear from next-generation telecom networks.

The conflict has fed fears



In this Oct. 31, 2019 photo, attendees use their smartphones near a Huawei booth at the PT Expo technology conference in Beijing. Chinese tech giant Huawei is racing to develop replacements for Google apps.

Associated Press

technology industries might split into Chinese, U.S. and other spheres with incompatible products.

Huawei's founder, Ren Zhengfei, has said it wants to stay in a unified global industry and work with Google and other U.S. partners. The Android system is open-source, meaning phone brands use it for free but most also pay Google for "core apps" and the software to support them. Huawei can keep using Android but is blocked from buying those "core apps" for pre-installation. That threatens to cripple Huawei's ability to compete with market leader Samsung and other Android-based phones.

Consumers expect "well-known apps that their peers are using," such as Google Maps, said Thomas Husson, a principal analyst for Forrester, in an email. "It would require massive investment to convince developers to develop for a new eco-system and a lot of marketing efforts."

Huawei already sells phones without Google "core apps" in China, where the ruling Communist Party's internet filters block access to YouTube, the Google search engine and thousands of other foreign

websites. Instead, Huawei phones come with Chinese search engine Baidu.com, video service Youku.com and other local apps.

But Huawei competes on a level playing field in China with competitors that face the same restrictions. In other foreign markets the others have the popular Google package. For the P40, Huawei has signed an agreement for developers to use maps from a Dutch provider, TomTom. Details of other services have yet to be announced.

In response to questions, Huawei said executives would talk to reporters next month at the Mobile World Congress, the industry's biggest annual event. The chief executive of Huawei's consumer unit, Richard Yu, told reporters in December the P40 would be launched in Paris in late March, using Android instead of Huawei's HarmonyOS operating system, which it unveiled last year.

HarmonyOS is based on code developed for other Huawei devices and could replace Android if needed. But the company wants to keep working with Google, which has spent more than a decade improving Android with input from Hu-

wei and other companies. Replacing Google apps is "a massive undertaking for any company," said Dermot Daly, chief executive of Tapadoo, an Irish app developer that isn't working for Huawei.

Huawei Mobile Services offers some 45,000 apps. But that is barely 1.5% of the 3 million titles on Google Play Store, where most Android users get apps.

Huawei needs to replace Google code that supports video and other features, said Daly. Then it needs to persuade developers to adapt apps to run on Huawei's new code.

"They're not building from scratch, but they face a big technical hurdle," said Daly. "Becoming a world-class software maker is a massive challenge."

Nokia Corp. took a similar approach with its first smartphone a decade ago but failed to attract enough apps for its system, said Daly. He said Microsoft Corp. tried again after acquiring Nokia's mobile phone unit in 2013 but faced similar lack of developer interest.

Such difficulties highlight the dominance of U.S. app providers and the very gradual emergence of global alternatives. □

For music, Sweden's Spotify or France's Deezer may come preloaded on phones, depending on deals with local phone carriers, said Forrester's Husson. Other options include China's TikTok for video, Russia's Yandex for search and email or OsmAnd and MapQuest for navigation, though none is as highly developed as Google or Apple services.

The search goes on: At an event in New Delhi, Huawei promised \$20,000 per app for development costs, according to the newspaper Economic Times.

In London, the website Telecom.com said developers were promised a 20,000 pound (\$26,000) reward if they meet a Jan. 31 deadline. A video released by Huawei said the company has set aside \$10 million to subsidize app writers in Poland. Huawei says its 2019 sales rose 18% to \$122 billion. But it warned the smartphone business, which shipped 240 million handsets last year in 170 countries, could suffer.

The Trump administration has postponed full enforcement of sanctions after U.S. processor chip makers and other vendors warned they would lose billions of dollars in sales. But Ren, the company founder, has said Huawei expects them to go ahead.

Huawei has one of the world's biggest research-and-development budgets and ramped up spending on developing its own chips and other technology long before running afoul of Washington.

It spent more than \$15 billion last year — more than Apple or Microsoft — and a total of 485 billion yuan (\$65 billion) over the decade before that. Industry analysts say the company is increasingly self-sufficient in chips and other components.

Huawei has yet to confirm details of the P40, but news reports suggest it will run on the company's Kirin 990 chip instead of one from Qualcomm or Intel. That reduces risks of supply disruptions. □



## Mutts



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6 Chix



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## **Blondie**



Mother Goose & Grimm



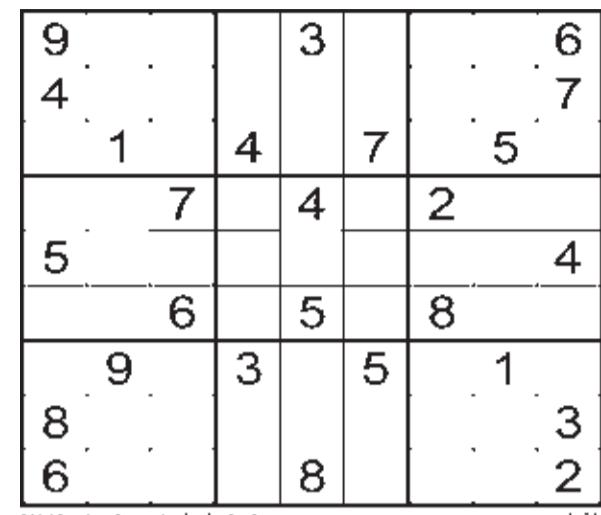
## Baby Blues



## Zits

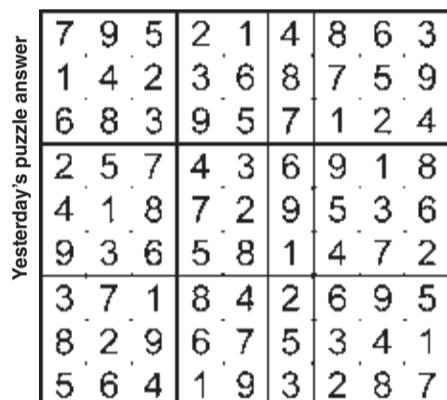


# Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★★

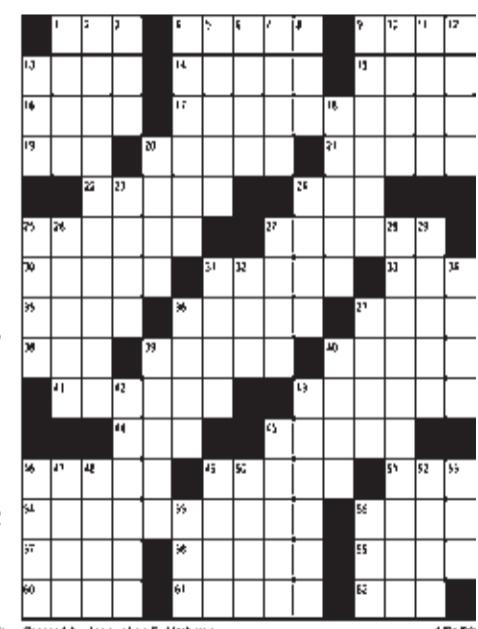
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



055

ACROSS

- 1 Shack
- 4 Fiction story
- 9 Farm machine
- 13 Seymour or PaJey
- 14 Standoffish
- 15 Neighbor of Nebraska
- 16 Fever
- 17 Roaming away from the group
- 18 Precious stone
- 20 Trusty horse
- 21 Throw water on
- 22 Not as ready
- 24 TV's Rather
- 25 Swotch cousin
- 27 Colors with a  
sig'll stain
- 30 Embrace as one's own
- 31 Remove a tenant
- 33 Truffle-like con-  
sider
- 35 Da as team
- 36 Wet sticky mud
- 37 Broad expanse



### Thursday's Puzzle Solved



1229 Indiana Content Agency, LLC  
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11-Exhibit B

39 Recent VP  
 40 Beach surface  
 42 Museum guide  
 43 Lunch w/ dry  
 45 Same for me!"  
 46 He's 'no fury  
     like a woman  
     scorched'  
 47 Repeated sound

48 TV crime series  
 49 Fish used in a  
     casserole  
 50 Head covering  
 52 Massages  
 53 Pic. 'Happy  
     Face'  
 55 Bathroom feature  
 56 Saus. 'Mare-

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2 BR Ocean Side Platinum  
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\$4 K

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## Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 7 \$1,5 K  
sleep 4 date ;02/15 to 02/22/ 2020

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Platinum

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1 BR WK 1 & 2 \$20 K both  
weeks  
2sd floor poo/ocean view

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## Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 8 & 9 \$9.5 K each  
eagle 9 with 27/19 weeks  
remain

212406

## Renaissance Suites

1 BR WK # 9 \$ 8 K  
4 rd floor overlook  
Harbor Ocean View

212406

## 1 BR WK # 11 \$ 9 K

3rd floor pool/ocean

## Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK 2  
building 8 Ground floor  
32 weeks remain \$17 K

212406

## Marriott Surf Club

1 BR WK 8 \$15 K  
building 6 on the 4th floor  
27 weeks remain

212406

## Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 11  
building 7 on the 3th floor  
33 weeks remain \$15 K

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## Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 1/2/3  
Birdie 2 on the 3rd floor  
25 weeks remain on each

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## Divi Links Golf

All 3 weeks together 30 K each  
1 BR WK 2 \$7.5 K  
eagle 3 with 32 weeks remain

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## Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 3 \$8.5 K  
eagle 3 with 23 weeks remain

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## Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 5 ,7 and 8 \$8 K each  
Birdie 4 with 28/27/29 weeks  
remain

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## Divi Links Golf

2 BR WK 3 \$ 20 K  
Eagle 8 with 25 weeks remain

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## Divi Links Golf

2 BR wk 3 Lock out \$20 K  
Birdie 9 26 weeks remain

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## Divi Links Golf

1 Br Wk 4 Birdie 1  
19 weeks remain

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## Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 6 Birdie 1 \$8 K

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## Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 7 \$ 20 K  
building F with 21 weeks remain

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## Divi Links Golf

2 sd floor 18 weeks remain

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Centre for Diabetes

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Child Abuse Prevention

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Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

## General Info

# For 1st time in 4 years, US life expectancy rises — a little

By MIKE STOBBE  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Life expectancy in the United States is up for the first time in four years.

The increase is small — just a month — but marks at least a temporary halt to a downward trend. The rise is due to lower death rates for cancer and drug overdoses.

"Let's just hope it continues," said Robert Anderson, who oversees the report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The latest calculation is for 2018 and factors in current death trends and other issues. On average, an infant born that year is expected to live about 78 years and 8 months, the CDC said.

For males, it's about 76 years and 2 months; for females 81 years and 1 month.

For decades, U.S. life expectancy was on the up-swing, rising a few months nearly every year. But from 2014 to 2017, it fell slightly or held steady. That was blamed largely on surges in overdose deaths and suicides.

Suicides continued to increase in 2018, as did deaths from the flu and pneumonia during what turned out to be an unusually bad flu year. But declines in some other causes of death — most notably cancer and drug overdoses — were enough to overcome all that, according to the report.

Cancer is the nation's No. 2 killer, blamed for about 600,000 deaths a year, so even slight changes in the cancer death rate can have a big impact. The rate fell more than 2%, matching the drop in 2017. "I'm a little surprised that rapid pace is continuing,"



In this Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 file photo, two joggers run through Grandview Cemetery in Johnstown, Pa.

said Rebecca Siegel, a researcher for the American Cancer Society.

Most of the improvement is in lung cancer because of fewer smokers and better treatments, she said.

Also striking was the drop in drug overdose deaths that had skyrocketed through 2017. The death rate fell 4% in 2018 and the number of deaths dropped to about 67,400.

Deaths from heroin and prescription painkillers went down, however, deaths from other drugs — fentanyl, cocaine and meth — continued to go up. And preliminary data for the first half of 2019 suggest the overall decline in overdose deaths is already slowing down.

It's still a crisis, said Katherine Keyes, a Columbia University researcher. "But the fact that we have seen the first year where there's not an additional increase is encouraging."

The national decline was

driven by dips in 14 states, the CDC's Anderson said.

Those include states where overdose deaths have been most common, like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

In Ohio's Hamilton County, which includes Cincinnati, overdose deaths fell in 2018 and preliminary data indicates another drop last year. County health commissioner Tim Ingram credited efforts to try to expand access to treatment, and to widely distribute the overdose reversal drug Narcan.

"We almost saturated our community with Narcan," he said.

Nationally, for all causes of death, more than 2.8 million Americans died in 2018. That's about 26,000 more than the year before, the CDC report found. The number went up even as the death rate went down, because the population is growing and a large group are retirement age baby

boomers.

Other findings:

— The 10 leading causes of death remained the same, with heart disease at No. 1. The death rate for heart disease declined slightly,

**Associated Press**

by less than 1%.

— Death rates also dropped for stroke, Alzheimer's disease, chronic lower respiratory diseases and unintentional injuries, which includes drug overdoses.

— Americans who were 65 in 2018 are expected to live another 19 years and six months, on average.

— The infant mortality rate fell more than 2%, to 1 in 177 births.

— The suicide death rate hit its highest level since 1941

— about 14 per 100,000. The rate peaked during the Depression in 1932 then mostly declined until 2000. It's been rising most years since then.

The U.S. has the highest suicide rate of 11 wealthy nations studied, according to a separate report released Thursday by the private Commonwealth Fund. That report also found U.S. life expectancy is two years lower than the average for the 10 other wealthy nations. □

## Bird rehabilitation center treated record numbers last year

**QUECHEE, Vt. (AP)** — A Vermont bird rehabilitation center treated a record number of wild birds last year, staff with the institute said.

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science in Quechee reported that staffers treated a record total of 705 wild birds in 2019 at the institute's Center for Wild Bird Rehabilitation, and that 77 of those were barred owls. In 2018, the institute treated 45 barred owls, out of 652 birds total, Valley News reported Saturday.

The weather and an increase in public awareness contributed to the higher numbers, said Grae O'Toole, the lead wildlife keeper at the institute.

"We weren't expecting the influx that we received (last) winter," she said. "They're just not able to punch through the ice to get to prey on their own." O'Toole said the staff was happy with the 55% recov-



This 2019 photo provided by Vermont Institute of Natural Science shows a baby barred owl that was brought to the Center for Wild Bird Rehabilitation at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science's in Quechee, Vt., after the tree his nest cavity was in was cut down.

**Associated Press**

ery and release rate of the 77 barred owls that were treated because they often have very severe injuries. □

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## Jennifer Lopez and Shakira vow 'empowering' halftime show

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

**MIAMI (AP)** — Jennifer Lopez and Shakira said their Super Bowl halftime show will pay homage to Latino culture, promising a joint performance that has an empowering message and also one that will remember NBA icon Kobe Bryant. Lopez and Shakira on Thursday held a press conference before Sunday's big game in Miami, telling media they worked hard to put together an eye-popping, high-energy 12-minute performance before the San Francisco 49ers take on the Kansas City Chiefs at Hard Rock Stadium.

"When I was living in Barranquilla, my hometown, as a little girl no one would have thought that I would be performing at the Super Bowl," Colombian singer Shakira said.

"It would be so hard to believe. And it's a reality today, now. I think that this is a palpable example of how anything is possible really and I think what matters is the size of dreams."

Shakira and Lopez have separately released a number of chart-topping hits that dominated both the pop and Latin charts in the last two decades.

While rehearsing days ago, Lopez said her beau Alex



NFL Super Bowl 54 football game halftime performer Jennifer Lopez and Shakira pose for a picture after a news conference Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020, in Miami.

Associated Press

Rodriguez came to her in tears to let her know Bryant, a friend of his, had passed away. Lopez said Thursday she wanted to send love and support to Bryant's wife and family.

"We have to love people when they're here and not wait," said Lopez.

"I think about Vanessa as a mom and losing her best friend and partner and losing her child, you know, how awful that must be for her right now, and I just wanted to send the message and praying God

guides her through every moment because she has three more babies to take care of."

Bryant had attended concerts by Lopez and Shakira, the singers said Thursday. Shakira added that they want to honor his legacy Sunday.

"Life is so fragile. And that's why we have to live every moment as intensely as we can," Shakira said.

"And I think we'll all be remembering Kobe on Sunday. And we'll be celebrating life and celebrating

diversity in this country. I'm sure he'll be very proud to see the message that we're going to try to convey onstage."

The singers also want to celebrate women and the Latino community with their performance. Lopez noted that for the first time two Latinas are headlining the halftime show.

"That statement alone to me is empowering. When I think of my daughter, when I think of all the little girls in the world, to be able to have that (and) to see that

two Latinas (are) doing this in this country at this time, it's just very empowering for us," said Lopez, who was born in New York to Puerto Rican parents.

Sunday will mark the first halftime show to be orchestrated under the leadership of Jay-Z and Roc Nation thanks to their new entertainment partnership with the NFL.

The singers said they are extremely excited but also a little nervous about the performance.

"I was up till 4 in the morning last night trying a pair of shorts and kind of tearing because they didn't fit right. So, it is nerve-racking but also exhilarating," Shakira said.

"It's definitely a ride," Lopez added.

"The relieving factor is they're going to be people out there and it's our people cheering for us, fans, and it's in Miami," Shakira said as the audience cheered on loudly.

"And that's so, so special because Miami is a city full of energy, it's an important nest for the Latino community and it's been a viable city for me because a huge part of my career was forged here.

And it's also it'll be on my birthday, too, so happy birthday to me." □

## Review: It's messy and crazy and deep—Kesha returns roaring

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

Kesha's new album starts out on a portentous and soaring note with the singer on the opening song "Tonight" in full Broadway mode, belting out "Take me out toooonniigghht." But 40 seconds in, it dissolves into a messy club banger complete with random expletives, crowd screams, a lost phone and the singer high and drunk as she readies to hit the town.

"High Road" is Kesha at her wonderfully anarchic, tipsy, profound and goofy best. Few artists can portray themselves as silly, airy party girls and then utterly subvert that very image, all



This cover image released by Kemosabe/RCA Records shows "High Road" by Kesha.

Associated Press

in the same song. "I don't do that dance," she warns us on the new album. "I only do my own dance."

"High Road" has a complex mix of textures, ranging from the gospel-influenced dance hall of "Raising Hell" with Big Freedia to the somber country of "Resentment" with Sturgill Simpson, Wrabel and Brian Wilson. Kesha can go from quietly singing about a lover's alienation with a revered Beach Boy to "Birthday Suit," a horny, cornball ditty that uses '80s video game sounds to seduce a lover ("You got any secret tattoos?").

It wouldn't be a Kesha record without some funny recorded vignettes

— in one, the Spice Girls are gently mocked — or bizarre songs that are strangely addictive, like the utterly oddball, tubed "Potato Song (Cuz I Want To)."

That's not to mean she can't drop the zaniness and deliver a devastating emotional punch, as she does in "Father Daughter Dance," a heartbreakingly ode to living without a parent. She can go from the carefully processed, naughty banger "Kinky" to the stripped-down acoustic twang of "Cowboy Blues." Her lyrics are often clever throughout: "Don't circumcise my circumstance," she sings in one song. □

# 'The Assistant' aims to go behind the headlines of #MeToo

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

**PARK CITY, Utah (AP) —**

"The Assistant" is one of the first narrative films to come out of the #MeToo movement and the Harvey Weinstein scandal. The film, written and directed by Kitty Green, features a predatory studio executive modeled after Weinstein, but he is unseen throughout the movie. "The Assistant" focuses instead on the toxic

work environment around him, detailing a day in the life of a low-level assistant. Green, an Australian filmmaker, has previously made documentaries that attempt to peel away the superficial sheen of media sensationalism. Her debut, "Ukraine Is Not a Brothel," profiled a Ukrainian feminist group famous for its topless protests. Her 2017 documentary, "Casting JonBenet," used local



Writer/director Kitty Green, left, and Julia Garner pose for a portrait to promote the film "The Assistant" at the Music Lodge during the Sundance Film Festival on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

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**PBP** MON-THU 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35  
FRI 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35 | 11:40  
SAT 1:15 | 3:20 | 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35 | 11:40  
**VIP** SUN 1:15 | 3:20 | 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35  
PG-13

**VARUN DHAWAN | SHRADDHA KAPOOR**

**STREET DANCER 3**  
**PBP** MON-FRI 5:45 | 8:50  
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**PH** MON-THU 7:40  
FRI 7:40 | 10:20  
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SUN 2:10 | 4:55 | 7:40  
**VIP** MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:35  
SAT-SUN 3:05 | 5:50 | 8:35  
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FRI 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00  
SAT 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00  
SUN 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30  
**VIP** MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20  
SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20  
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**MACKENZIE DAVIS | FINN WOLFHARD**

**THE TURNING**  
**WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES** PG-13  
**PH** MON-THU 6:15 | 8:30  
FRI 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:15  
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**PBP** MON-THU 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30  
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SAT 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:40  
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DEAN/CHARLES CHAPMAN | GEORGE MACKAY

**1917**  
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**PH** MON-THU 5:50 | 8:15  
FRI 5:50 | 8:15 | 10:40  
SAT 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15 | 10:40  
SUN 3:25 | 5:50 | 8:15  
**PBP** MON-THU 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00  
FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:00  
SAT 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00 | 11:20  
SUN 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00  
WILL SMITH | TOM HOLLAND

**SPIES IN DISGUISE**  
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**PBP** MON-FRI 4:05  
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**JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL**  
**WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES** PG-13  
**PBP** MON-THU 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10  
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Colorado actors to get beyond the rumors and tabloid headlines of the child pageant queen's unsolved murder. In 2017, Green was working on a film about sexual abuse on college campuses when the Weinstein case broke. She quickly pivoted. "I've always been interested in the way these events, especially involving women, are covered in the press," Green said in an interview. "I was a little concerned that the media seemed to be focusing on these evil men and not on the system that surrounds them and the structures that keeps them in power. I wanted to look at it from a different angle rather than looking at it from the top down. I wanted to look at it from the bottom up."

"The Assistant," which recently screened at the Sundance Film Festival, arrives in limited theaters Friday just as the Weinstein trial is raging. (Weinstein has pleaded not guilty to two counts of rape, one count of criminal sexual act and two counts of predatory sexual assault.) Hollywood assistants, like the one named Jane and played by Julia Garner in the film, are also rebelling. Since last October, #PayUpHol-

lywood has sought to pressure the industry to give its assistants fairer treatment and better pay.

But while "The Assistant" may be reminiscent of current headlines, it takes a deliberately restrained approach to portraying gender dynamics in the workplace. Where "Bombshell," the Fox News drama, is starry and showy in its depiction of sexual harassment at a media company, "The Assistant" is muted and sober. "One of the things she mentioned when we first met up was she wanted the film to be very quiet. And I think that was important because the subject is so loud," says Garner, the 25-year-old "Ozark" actress. "It's actually more powerful when you have a really quiet film, almost silent the whole time because the subject is silence."

In the film, Jane attends methodically to the rigors of her job: answering phone calls; printing out headshots of actresses; lying about her boss's whereabouts to his wife; unpacking a shipment of erectile dysfunction drugs; cleaning stains off her boss's couch. "The Assistant" keeps to Jane's perspective, capturing her interplay with

the higher-ranking male assistants next to her. They assume she'll entertain the boss' children when they visit. Phone calls from the wife get sent to her. She takes the lunch orders. Green depicts how power operates in the office and the disorienting nature a toxic environment that has grown rigid through years of practice. "A lot of people, women and men were victims and they weren't even aware that they were victims. It was like a whole system in a way," says Garner. "It's like it's an out of body experience. They're getting thrown in to an awful situation." Green interviewed, she says, some 100 people who had worked as assistants in preparation for the film. She was stuck by the patterns in their accounts about how their accents in the industry were stymied by how they were regarded in the workplace. Most left the film industry. "I don't have any experience being an assistant, not at a company here, but in Australia I did. And I did notice how my confidence was sort of stripped away from me. It really does shake your sense of self when people don't take you seriously," says Green. □

## Houston writer Bryan Washington to receive Gaines award

By CHEVEL JOHNSON

Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — His path to writing was not straightforward, but Bryan Washington says he's grateful to have found his way. "I really fell into this," Washington said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "I worked in a few kitchens. I taught English as a second language and really enjoyed doing both. Then I took an undergraduate course (on writing) and I really, really enjoyed it and I've kept writing ever since." At just 26 years old, Washington's fiction and essays have appeared in The New York Times, The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, The Paris Review, Boston Review, and other publications. He's also a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 winner, the recipient of an O. Henry Award and the 2019 winner of the 13th annual Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence.

Washington will receive the Gaines award and its \$15,000 prize at a ceremony Thursday in Baton Rouge for a debut collection of short stories titled "Lot." The award recognizes outstanding work from promising African American fiction writers while honoring Gaines' contribution to the literary world. A Louisiana native, Gaines wrote the critically acclaimed novel "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," one of four of his works that were adapted for films. His 1993 novel "A Lesson Before Dying" won the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction. Gaines died Nov. 5 at his home in Oscar, Louisiana. He was 86.

The stories of "Lot" are set in Houston's multiethnic neighborhoods. "I was drawn to the Houston area partly because it's my



This photo provided by David Gracia shows author Bryan Washington. Houston writer Bryan Washington has been named the 2019 recipient of the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, for his debut short story collection "Lot."

Associated Press

home and it's a city I'm enamored with and I wanted to see the community represented on the page," he said. "To tell the stories of the people who live here is really a cool opportunity. Above all else, I wanted to write something that my friends would enjoy."

Washington earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Houston and a master's in creative writing from the University of New Orleans. He is currently a lecturer at Rice University teaching introduction to fiction.

He said he appreciates the accolades he's received for his work. "It's a nice feeling when you get visibility for a story," he said. "I'm grateful for it."

Everyone mostly has been saying really nice stuff." Washington said receiving the Gaines award in light of the celebrated author's passing is "bittersweet."

"Still it's an honor more so than anything else. To tell the stories I've been trying to tell about folks who are just doing interesting things in their communities, about people of color and queer people of color. Gaines was someone who wrote about people he knew and his community. It means a lot to look at his work and look at my work as a reflection of him. That's an honor in and of itself."

Washington said Gaines definitely has had an influence on his craft. "The specificity of his voice and his community. He wrote

without compromising. The narratives are very much of his moment and I feel like anytime someone does that so deeply, that's admirable," he said.

Asked what's next on his plate, Washington said he has a novel coming out this fall titled "Memorial." He didn't provide any details.

"In some sense it's a progression. I couldn't have done it three years ago. I wasn't good enough," he said. Previous winners of the Gaines award include Jamel Brinkley, Ladee Hubbard, Crystal Wilkinson and T. Geronimo Johnson. □

## Groups promoting news literacy to combat misinformation

By DAVID BAUDER  
AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A special effort launched this week is promoting the idea of news literacy education to help the public, particularly young people who have grown up with social media, learn to track down trustworthy information. News organizations across the country are backing National News Literacy Week, with a particularly aggressive campaign across television stations and other properties owned by the E.W. Scripps Co. Teachers are meeting journalists at Bloomberg News to learn how newsgathering works.

The ultimate goal is to get news literacy programs incorporated into civics education in as many schools as possible, said Alan Miller, founder of the News Literacy Project.

"The truth is we live at a time when people have more credible and valuable information at their fingertips than at any time in history," Miller said. "Yet misinformation has turned that world against us in so many ways."

Young people are growing up with social media that can spread false rumors as fast as fact, and watching television stations where it's hard to discern opinions from fact, Adam Symson,

Scripps president and CEO, said Wednesday.

"Over the long haul, if Americans cannot discern quality journalism from garbage, we as a journalism company are going to have trouble selling our wares," Symson said.

The news literacy experts cite surveys that show many people don't know the difference between opinion pieces and news articles. An overwhelming majority of young people did not understand, for example, why they might want to double-check assertions about climate change on a website funded by the fossil fuel industry.

The idea of news literacy is to get people to understand biases embedded in information and recognize credible news sources where they can double-check for the truth, Miller said.

Consumers need to look no further than the 2016 election and other political campaigns to see the ease and influence of spreading false information, he said.

"We believe that misinformation is one of the challenges of our time," said

Miller, a former reporter for the Los Angeles Times. "We believe it is threatening to undermine the civic life of our country."

Journalists have also taken a lot for granted, he said.

"We did not tell the public what we did, how important it is and why," he said. "There is just a tremendous amount that they're not aware of. And why would they be?"

Because asking uncomfortable questions of the nation's elite is part of their role, journalists have never been particularly popular, and President Donald Trump repeatedly attacks the press. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's anger at a National Public Radio reporter for what she asked in an interview last week is only the latest example of this playing out.

Symson said the problems of some journalists are less important than the American public being armed with information so they can be smart participants in civic life. Journalists at Scripps stations have volunteered at high schools to teach the standards and principles of journalism and help them produce stories. The News Literacy Project has also created a game-like app designed to help people distinguish between what is factual and what is not.

"Opinions are stubborn things and are often impervious to facts," Miller said. "If we get to a point in society where we can't agree on facts, we're going to have a real problem." □



# Bible vs indigenous beliefs at issue in Bolivia

By BRADY McCOMBS

Associated Press

**LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)**—Hoisting a large leather Bible above her head, Bolivia's new interim president delivered an emphatic message hours after Evo Morales fled under pressure, the end of a nearly 14-year presidency that celebrated the country's indigenous religious beliefs like never before.

"The Bible has returned to the palace," bellowed Jeanine Añez as she walked into the presidential palace where Morales had jettisoned the bible from official government ceremonies and replaced with acts honoring the Andean earth deity called the Pachamama. The conservative evangelical senator, from a region where people often scoff at Pachamama beliefs, thrust the Bible above her head and flashed a beaming smile.

While Bolivians of all walks of life are deeply divided on Morales' legacy, his replacement, a lawyer and opposition leader who wants to make the Bible front and center in public life, is reigniting deep-rooted class and racial divisions at a time of great uncertainty in the Andean nation, where 6 in 10 identify as descendants of native peoples.

"It's the same as 500 years ago when the Spanish came and the first thing they showed the indigenous people was the Bible," said Jose Saravia, a civil engineer from La Paz. "It seems to me like the same thing is happening again." Like many in Bolivia, Saravia is a practicing Catholic who weaves in Pachamama beliefs passed down from this parents and grandparents. About 8 in 10 in Bolivia are Catholic, according to the most recent estimates. Saravia and his family were among droves of people who came carrying their immaculately dressed baby Jesus dolls to fill a massive Catholic church in La Paz to participate in Three Kings Day masses Jan. 6. As they slowly left the church,



In this picture taken Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, a Christ statue overlooks El Alto, a city adjoining the capital city La Paz, Bolivia.



In this Nov. 12, 2019, AP file photo, the Senate's second vice president and opposition politician Jeanine Añez, center, wearing the presidential sash and carrying a Bible, addresses the crowd from the balcony of the Quemado palace after she declared herself interim president of the country, in La Paz, Bolivia.

Associated Press

a Catholic priest splashed their relics with holy water. Just feet away from the church in a bustling plaza, parishioners stopped to have their dolls blessed by indigenous elders wearing their customary poncho sweaters and wool stocking hats in an act Bolivians believe shows respect for Pachamama and bring blessings in return. The men rang tiny bells as they placed the dolls in incense smoke billowing from small pots full of hot coals and special herbs, many ending the act with a sign of the cross and a kiss of a small cross. A symbiotic relationship has emerged over time. It allows Catholics and Pachamama believers to maintain both systems, said Mariano Condori Flores, one of the indigenous guides doing the blessings.

Condori said the same type of relationship doesn't exist with evangelicals, who tend to take a hard-line against mixing beliefs and account for about 7% of the population, more

especially for those of us here in the oriental region that don't believe in the Pachamama."

Sentiments like that provoke strong reaction from Bolivians who embrace their Incan heritage. They fear that the discrimination they felt under previous presidents of European descent will return to this South American country of 11 million people situated between Peru, Chile, Brazil and Argentina.

Añez will likely only hold the office until May 3, when the country holds another election, but critics say she represents Bolivian archetype that flourished before Morales became the nation's first indigenous president in 2006.

Morales commonly railed against what he considered discrimination that dated back to the Spanish conquest in 1520, describing his presidency as the "decolonization" of Bolivia. Morales revamped the Bolivian constitution in 2009 to make the country a secular state, stripping special recognition previously given to the Catholic church. None of the presidential candidates for the May election mentioned rolling back Morales' changes to the constitution.

Añez declined to be interviewed by The Associated Press but told a Bolivian newspaper in December that she will respect indigenous beliefs. But she said if Christians like her had to endure the Bible being taken out of the presidential palace, now others should respect her devotion to God. Edwin Sanchez Mansilla, who owns a shop in La Paz called "Question of Faith," to repair religious relics, said Añez' celebration of the Bible returning ignited a spike in business as people felt compelled to connect to their religious roots. He said he's not worried that Bolivia will lose its indigenous culture.

"We've had these customs for a long time, Evo Morales didn't invent them," Mansilla said. "With or without Evo, we'll continue. We have strong roots." □



In this picture taken Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, spiritual indigenous guides perform traditional blessings on baby Jesus dolls after parishioners leave the Three Kings Day Mass outside the San Francisco Church in La Paz, Bolivia.

Associated Press